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THE NEWS FROM CHINA.

THE hitherto mysterious and inaccessible capital of the Chinese Empire is now actually occupied by the English and French; and yet no one can say that we have had good news from China. This great military and political success—Pekin taken as easily as Naples by Garibaldi, and the Emperor driven to some Tartarian Gaeta like a Celestial Francis II.—is more than counterbalanced by the terrible fate of at least two out of the six English prisoners who were known to have fallen into the hands of the Chinese. Probably nothing could be more difficult, as an abstract proposition, than to make a Chinaman understand how the deaths of two Englishmen at Peking could rouse the indignation of all England; but this is what we trust the English Commander has endeavoured to explain to them before now in the only manner in which it was possible to make it clear to their essentially low minds and still baser hearts. Put immediate relatives out of the question, and we venture to say that the loss of the two thousand Englishmen who fell at Inkermann was less keenly felt than that of the two who have now perished, the victims of Chinese perfidy and cruelty, at Peking. The former were cut down honourably fighting; they were honourably slain, and died a death which not only might be the lot of any soldier, but which many brave soldiers have envied. But we know not what torture, what humiliation, what indignities of every kind the unhappy captives at Peking may have had to undergo before they finally succumbed. Even Private Moyse, of the Buffs, who simply had his brains knocked out for refusing to "kotch" to a Chinese official—even his end was a desirable one as compared with that which awaited Captain Anderson and Mr. De Norman. Our miserable, hypocritical peacemongers, who know that if we enjoy the blessings of peace in Europe it is only because we are prepared at any moment to go to war, and who prove that they are Christian Englishmen only by loving England's enemies—these huckstering fanatics, who are well aware that without our

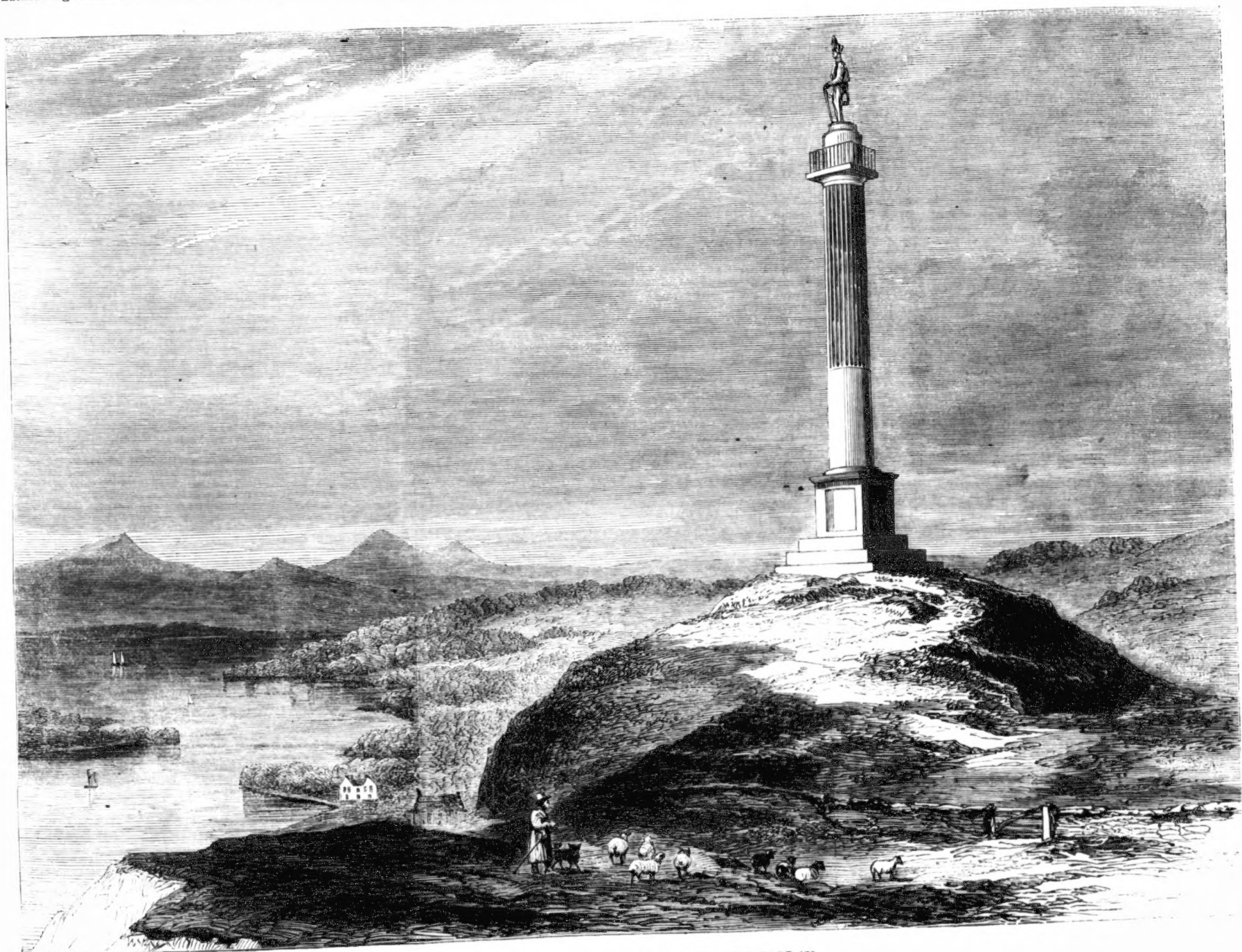
armies and fleets to protect them they could not carry on their commerce with foreign countries for another year, will pity the poor Chinese assassins for the righteous vengeance which, we feel sure, has been inflicted upon them fully and without delay. These mean and maudlin philanthropists are for the most part as corrupt in their political as in their moral notions. They believe in universal suffrage, which implies universal equality. Once say that all Englishmen are equal, and the next step is to assert the equality of men all over the globe. If a Lancashire weaver is as good a man as Tennyson, Tennyson's hero is certainly wrong when he holds

"the grey barbarian lower than the Christian child."

Indeed, in the opinion of our evil-minded preachers of peace, the yellow barbarian of China is not merely equal, but superior, to the most high-souled Christian gentleman this country or all Christendom could produce. They are past saying that "one man is as good as another," and have arrived at that point of ludicrous absurdity reached by the American stump orator, who, in a moment of frenzy, added to his favourite proposition, "Yes, and a great deal better!" It is the Chinaman whom the peace-lovers think "a great deal better" just now; they had previously had that opinion of the sepoy, and they would entertain it to-morrow of a Red Indian, were he to begin tomahawking English colonists, though, if he injured the hair of an American, the question would, of course, be altogether different.

No one can say how many thousand Chinese ought to be killed as a punishment for the cruel murder of the two Englishmen whom we know to have suffered torture and death at their hands. Certainly not one in cold blood, unless the actual assassins or their abettors and complices can be discovered. But in case of the Chinese having refused, or even having hesitated, to give up the two prisoners who were believed to be still alive in Peking, no limit can be assigned to the retribution which our army would have been justified in exacting from

them for their unparalleled cruelty and treachery. War is demoralising when men scarcely know what they are fighting for, or when they are fighting for a mean object; but it is elevating when they are risking their lives to save those of their comrades, and for the assertion of a high principle. We despise the peacemongers, who are not foolish theorists, as some of their friends would have it, but very practical imposters; at the same time, however, we lament the horrors of war, and since war is inevitable—which in certain cases, and even at certain intervals, it always has been, and always will be, until the nature of man is changed—civilised nations should do their utmost to deprive it of all such attendant evils as do not of actual necessity follow in its train. It is not necessary, for instance, to murder women and children, or to bombard undefended towns, or to kill prisoners, or to fire on the wounded, or treacherously to break truces; and when any of those laws of civilised warfare are set at defiance on one side it becomes the stern duty of those fighting on the other to give the severest lesson to the delinquents that can possibly be administered without falling into the same guilt as themselves. If the material terrors of war have increased of late years in Europe—if more men are blown to pieces now than formerly by a discharge of cannon—it must be admitted that its moral evils have also diminished in a remarkable manner. Compare the conduct of the ferocious Souvaroff with that of the Russian Generals in the Crimea, sending, an hour after the battle of Balaklava, a list of the English officers who had fallen alive into their hands; or the sieges of any of the Spanish cities taken by the French in the Napoleonic wars with the siege of Antwerp in 1831, when the French restricted their fire to the citadel, and did not fire a shot upon the townspeople. In short, according to the modern system of warfare among European nations, every endeavour is made to localise contests, and to spare all but actual belligerents. There is nothing modern, however, in the principle that the terms of a



THE ANGLESEY COLUMN, MENAI STRAITS.—SEE PAGE 372.

truce must be sacredly observed, that prisoners must not be made during a cessation of hostilities, or that, once captured, on whatever pretext, they must at least be treated with humanity. For the infraction of all these rules, which are as well understood in China as in any part of Europe, the authorities of Peking laid their city at the mercy of the allies to be treated as a besieged city may be treated anywhere after the defending forces have, by wanton cruelty and breach of faith, forfeited all claim to quarter. Attila was a model of chivalry compared to a Chinese leader, and the Mongols of the thirteenth century were humane compared to the not so much uncivilised as utterly corrupt race who torture their prisoners, but have not the strength to defeat their enemies, in however insignificant numbers they may present themselves. We have allowed the Chinese too long to be treacherous with impunity, and in the interests of humanity, and for the sake of the Chinese themselves, we hope their latest crimes have been visited with confounding punishment. Better that half Peking should be destroyed, and the other half taught to observe the plainest laws in force between civilised nations, than that the deliberate murder of two Englishmen by the Chinese authorities should be left unavenged.

And now what can be said as to the probable position of the two prisoners still "unaccounted for"? Nothing will be known for some days at least as to the fate of Captain Brabazon and Mr. Bowly, the *Times* correspondent. But letters from Peking can be sent overland to St. Petersburg in a shorter space of time by about a fortnight than it occupies to forward them by the sea route to England; and it is just possible that some Russian journal may give the details of the capture of Peking this very week. There is a Russian Embassy at Peking, and surely its members, hearing that there were English prisoners in the city, would interest themselves to save them. Who knows but that it may have occurred to those unfortunate gentlemen to ask to be conducted there and that the Chinese officials, in the hope of gaining useful information from them, may have agreed to the proposition, which, by-the-way, it would require no acquaintance with Chinese to make in a sufficiently intelligible manner. This is a very slight straw to catch at, but we point to it—almost in despair, it is true—as about the only one at present to be thought of.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The *Constitutionnel* pretends that there is no foundation in the story that the Marquis de Livaletti had insisted at Constantinople upon the prolongation of the French occupation of Syria. The *Constitutionnel* also says:—"Up to the present the contention of the 4th of September has not given rise to any divergence of opinion between the representatives of the foreign Powers at Constantinople."

The *Moniteur* contains an Imperial decree relative to the government and administration of Algeria. It refers to the decree of the 24th of November, 1860, by which the Ministry for Algeria is suppressed, and then decrees the nomination of a Governor-General, but countersigned by the Minister of State. The Governor-General is to command the forces in the colony on sea and land, without, however, interfering with the authority of the Ministers of War and of Marine in this respect. A Vice-Governor is added in the person of a General of Division. The departments of Justice and of Public Instruction continue to be directed by the corresponding Ministries at Paris, with the exception of the indigenous schools and the mixed Franco-Arab schools, which are placed under the Governor-General's exclusive authority. In all other branches the Governor-General is to appoint the functionaries.

SPAIN.

An attempt on the life of Marshal O'Donnell took place at Madrid on the 6th. The Marshal was wounded in the left shoulder by a pistol-shot as he was leaving the Senate. The assassin was immediately arrested. His name is Imaz. He is said to be mad.

Marshal O'Donnell has declared to the Cortes that the representative of Spain at Gaeta has faithfully fulfilled his duty in remaining to share the perils of the King.

The Spanish Government, in imitation of the great naval Powers, is looking to her naval efficiency, and has given orders for the construction of two large frigates, one of which is to be iron-plated.

PRUSSIA.

Herr Simons, the Minister of Justice, has resigned office, in consequence of the late police scandals revealed at Berlin.

Towards the close of last week a Cabinet Council was held at Berlin on capital questions (as the *National Gazette* of Berlin says), over which the Prince Regent himself, assisted by his son, Prince Frederick William, presided.

In reply to a petition of 250 Hebrew congregations, a declaration has been published by the Prussian Government intimating their intention for the future to avail themselves of the services of Jews in the various departments of the State. This is carrying out the spirit of the law enacted in 1848, but which hitherto had been almost a dead letter.

AUSTRIA.

Baron Schmerling has been appointed Minister of State, in place of Count Goluchowski. The advent of M. Schmerling to power is hailed with satisfaction by all lovers of constitutional liberty. The programme he has drawn up for the reconstruction of the empire, and which has been accepted by the Emperor, is tantamount to a complete revolution, including, among other matters, the abolition of the Concordat, the equality of all religious professions, the repeal of the provisional statutes recently promulgated, and a Constitution common to all the German and Slav provinces—Hungary and Venetia being excepted.

The congregation of the Comitatus of Pesth met on Monday, when Counts Károlyi and Nyári spoke in favour of the establishment of the laws of 1848. The city was illuminated on the occasion, but public order was not disturbed.

Hungary is still full of revolution; outbreaks are constant. Ten thousand troops have been dispatched into the country as a reinforcement; and General von Neuwirth, the Military Commander of Pesth, has informed the inhabitants of the city that if there should be any more disturbances he shall interfere, even though he should not be asked to do so by the civil authorities.

RUSSIA.

A St. Petersburg letter informs us that the decree emancipating the Russian peasants has been signed by the Emperor Alexander, and that it is expected to be promulgated on the 1st of January. Various rumours are in circulation respecting the essential character of this great reform, but nothing certain has yet transpired, except the important fact that the personal liberty of the serf is formally stipulated.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

A Sardinian vessel from Gaeta, laden with arms and ammunition and with false papers, has been stopped by the Turkish authorities, and the Porte has protested against the fraud as constituting a violation of treaties. The discovery, made by the Austrians, that Prince Couza has a secret understanding with the Hungarian revolutionary chief, has led to exhortations to vigilance, addressed by the Austrian Government to the Porte, while the preparations for war—made in Montenegro and even in Servia—have also put the Turkish Government on its guard on its own account.

Agitation prevails in the Danubian Principalities. At Jassy the

Metropolitan and the Minister of the Interior have been arrested and conveyed to a convent.

The Sultan has decorated the Greek Patriarch and his Armenian companion, as also the Armenian Catholic Archbishop, with the first class of the Medjidie.

A Christian Sackih had been appointed the new Caliph of the Lebanon.

AMERICA.

The secession movement still continues with undiminished activity in South Carolina, and the other malcontent Southern States. As far as language goes it would appear as if South Carolina had committed herself to secession almost beyond the power of retracing her steps. Governor Gist, in his message, declares absolutely for disunion, and argues that the time is gone by even for a conference of Southern States. Mr. Buchanan is being urged by the extreme party to permit secession without interference on the part of the Federal authorities. The prostration of business and the critical state of monetary affairs, of course, still continue.

A telegram from Washington professes to give the Attorney-General's opinion, called for by President Buchanan, on the questions of law arising out of apprehended difficulties between the North and South. Judge Black not only discusses the important question of the constitutional right of a State to secede, but several other questions which are involved. He holds, it is said, in the first instance, that a State has not the constitutional right to secede.

A painful story comes from Washington Territory. Captain Dent, who had been sent to inquire into the truth of the reported massacre of emigrants, found some ten or twelve emigrants still alive, and subsisting upon the dead of their associates. The details are most horrible. Some twelve dead bodies had been found, and ten more still alive, secreted in parties of three or four for the distance of twelve miles in the vicinity of the attack. Some had died from actual starvation. A Mr. Myers, his brother's wife, Mrs. Myers, with five children, and Miss Truabull, were among the living. This party was subsisting upon the dead bodies of Myers, the father and husband.

The accounts of extensive depredations on the Kansas border by a band under the command of Montgomery turn out to be much exaggerated. General Harney, with a body of dragoons, was in pursuit of the disturbers of the peace.

Passports had been sent to the Peruvian Minister at Washington, diplomatic relations between the two Republics being at an end.

Advices received from Vera Cruz to the 21st ult. state that the British Legation in Mexico had been robbed, by force, of a million of dollars belonging to the British bondholders. Great excitement prevailed in consequence. The Liberals were concentrating on the capital.

THE WAR IN CHINA.

CAPTURE OF PEKIN.

"The following news, dated Peking, October 13, has arrived:—

"Pekin surrendered to the allies this day, yielding to all demands.

"Parkes, Loch, and L'Eschayac were released on the 8th instant. De Norman and Anderson have died from the effects of brutal treatment. Thirteen soldiers have also been released. There is little hope of the return of Brabazon, Bowly, or the French officers missing.

"The Emperor and the Tartar army have fled, and none of the enemy are to be seen at Peking. The Emperor's Summer Palace was taken and looted on the 6th of October. The quantity of spoil was enormous.

"The Peking gates have been given up to the troops, who are all healthy, and encamped on the wall. The Allied Army will winter in the North. Lord Elgin and Baron Gros are at Peking. Indemnity ready when demanded.

"All is quiet at Shanghai. A new and distinct rebellion is reported in the provinces of Shensi. It is said to be headed by influential people."

THE CONDITION OF TURKEY.

THE report of the Grand Vizier to the Sultan concerning the alleged malversations of the administrative functionaries of the Turkish empire has been published. The Grand Vizier acknowledges the existence of certain abuses; he avows that there is yet much to be done in order to raise Turkey to the level of European States, and he points out the legislative changes which the condition of the interior of the empire requires. All this is stated with a judicial gravity and impartiality rarely to be met with in a State document. The Grand Vizier is accordingly entitled to European credence in his assertion that he has found "no indication of the alleged system of persecution organised by Mussulman fanaticism against the Christians." He adds that "the assassinations, violations, robberies, and spoliation, the list of which had even been put before friendly and allied Courts, have almost all disappeared before the conscientious examination of the court." The Grand Vizier further declares "each grievance has been made the object of a special inquiry." With these full and satisfactory assertions, borne out by the report of his joint Christian and Mussulman Commissioners, the Grand Vizier contradicts absolutely the main part of the charges which had been brought forward by the interested and partisan enemies of the Turkish Administration. But he goes on to acknowledge that "it would be to put forward a ridiculous pretension to deny the existence of disorders which the best-organised Governments have not yet been able to get rid of." He has found crimes to repress and injuries to avenge. But these crimes have been committed and these injuries sustained in an incomparably small ratio to the population itself, whereas it had been attempted to represent violence as the normal condition of the interior of the empire.

We now turn to the reforms which the enterprising spirit of the Grand Vizier and his local colleagues in the late inquiry suggest to the consideration of the Porte. The first of these is an abolition of the present and traditional method of farming the tithes. One result of this system is that the Government receive less revenue than they would receive now under an altered system, if only because they are the wealthy middlemen, who pay rent for the right of collection, to be remunerated out of the proceeds of taxation. Another result is that these taxes are levied in a more oppressive manner than would result from their being levied by the uniform action of the Government. Moreover, a people who would pay taxes direct to the supreme power naturally recoil from paying them to private capitalists. The Grand Vizier further urges the reorganisation of the rural police, and the improvement of the roads. On the latter point too much can hardly be urged; and the want of proper communication between town and town, and between district and district, is one of the worst disadvantages under which Turkey labours. The practical question here is, Where is the Government to obtain the money if these works, as in France, are to be undertaken chiefly by the State? or, if not, how shall private enterprise be adequately stimulated? To these proposed reforms the Grand Vizier adds that of a reconstruction of the process and jurisdiction of the criminal courts. If such improvements as these shall be introduced as a result of the present inquiry, few will ultimately regret the misrepresentations which led to its being held.

THE SOVEREIGNS IN PARLITUS.—The *Espero* of the 5th says:—"The Duchesse of Parma has reduced by half the emoluments of her representatives at the European Courts. The Grand Duke of Tuscany and the Duke of Modena have determined to suppress all their representatives at the end of the year. From the month of December the troops of the Duke of Modena will be informed that they are at liberty to return home, or to enter the Austrian regiments in Venetia. These are pretty good proofs that these Princes are sufficiently convinced of the impossibility of a restoration."

THE RAJAH OF COORG.—The famous suit brought by the late Rajah of Coorg against the East India Company for the recovery of the amount of two promissory notes which he held against them, and which they had given to him as security for the repayment of two loans which he had made to them, has been decided in the Court of Chancery. The East India Company pleaded that, having captured and annexed Coorg, these notes, by "the rights" of conquest, formed part of the booty of war. In other words, they argued that the Rajah lent the money in his sovereign and not in his private capacity. This was the view taken by the Master of the Rolls in his judgment. He therefore dismissed the bill, but without costs.

COUNT PERSIGNY AND THE FRENCH PRESS.

M. PERSIGNY has issued a circular in which he says that "charged with the discretionary power which the law on the press confers on the Minister of the Interior, I am anxious to make known to you clearly in what spirit I intend to exercise that power."

I have just been living among a people who may be justly proud of their institutions; where the liberty of the press is openly exercised, without being a danger either to the State, to public order, or to the safety of persons and of things; and where, useful to all parties, appealed to and respected by all, it forms the surest guarantee of public liberty, of order, and of the prosperity of the country. I have long witnessed that noble spectacle, and if formerly I had not liked true liberty, I should have acquired a taste for it in that country.

As England, therefore, has preceded us in that career, it is natural that we should endeavour to ascertain by what means she has succeeded in assimilating to herself the liberty of the press, which amongst us still meets with so many enemies, excites so much uneasiness, and presents so many dangers. Let us, then, see how this great problem has been solved in England, and, like the Romans, who, constantly improving their means of fighting, adopted even the weapons of their enemies, let us profit by the example of our rivals in glory and in power.

When we study the law of the press in England from the period of the accession of the House of Hanover, we are first of all struck with its extreme rigour. . . . Down to the complete annihilation of the party of the Stuarts, the English laws on the press appear to have had only a single object—to defend the new dynasty against its political or religious enemies, and to interdict in the name of liberty, as it were, the arms and instruments of liberty to the adversaries of the new institutions of the country. . . . During all the time that the house of Hanover had in the interior political or religious enemies—that is to say, during all that period of passions and violence—the Judges of the Crown exercised the rigorous right of condemning any person guilty of having written, published, or printed attacks on the Crown and the State, not only to fine, imprisonment, scourging, and the pillory, but even to death; and that, not as now, on a declaration of the jury on the offence itself, but on the simple declaration on the fact is such a person the author, publisher, or printer of such a work?

Now, if we reflect that the Judges nominated by the Crown were chosen from among the most zealous partisans of the house of Hanover, and were even liable, up to 1760, to dismissal by the Crown, it may be imagined what was the liberty of the press for the partisans of the Stuarts, for the Jacobites, the Catholics, or Papists, as they were then called, and other enemies of the State. It was only at the end of the last century, when the house of Hanover had been long consolidated, the party of the Stuarts annihilated, and that of the Catholics subjected, that, on public opinion demanding a modification of this rigorous legislation, Fox obtained from Parliament a bill for applying the verdict of the jury not to the fact alone, but to the character of the seditious publication or libel, which alteration naturally made the legislation on the matter considerably milder.

But to show in what spirit England regards a free press the Count informs the prefects that in 1819, a time of trouble, in which juries were often unmanageable,

A law was enacted which punished by fine and imprisonment, and, in case of a second conviction, with transportation, the author, publisher, and printer of any seditious writing or libel against the King, the Royal family, the Regent, the Government, the Constitution, or either House of Parliament; and this was effected by provisions so minute, so precise, that it was scarcely possible for the conscience of jurymen to avoid meeting the necessities of the State.

When the crisis of 1848 came on, and with it new emotions, and new parties hostile to established order, further difficulties were experienced from juries. The necessity was then felt of determining with still greater clearness and precision the attacks to which the State might be exposed; and a new law, intitled "An Act for Better Assuring the Security of the Crown and of the Government," was accordingly added to the terrible arsenal of English legislation. This time the success was complete. The weapon was so keenly sharpened that it triumphed over even an Irish jury; and on their verdict two journalists guilty of seditious libels—John Mitchell and John Martin—were condemned by the Judges of the Crown to fourteen years' transportation with hard labour.

And now, can any one suppose that, if these judicial expedients, in conformity with the genius of the Anglo-Norman race, proved inefficient, England would be brought to a halt by mere theories? Certainly not. Ever faithful to her grand principle that, before being a free people, it is necessary to be a united one, England, which in the past century shrank from employing no means when it was necessary to defend the dynasty of her choice, would not hesitate now if any new peril menaced the State.

In recapitulation, the spirit of the English legislation as regards the press may be thus summed up:—Complete liberty for whatever is an advantage or not dangerous for the State, and negation of all liberty of attacking the State; so that the liberty which the English press enjoys so completely is, in reality, the expression of the political and social situation of the country. As there is not at present any party, any sensible man, who would for a moment think of overthrowing either the Queen, or the Government, or the Parliament, or the Constitution, there is no ground for any kind of interference with the liberty of the press, which is an advantage for all. But if any party should arise and propose to overthrow the State for the benefit of some other dynasty or doctrine, from that moment the liberty of the press would cease to exist for that party.

Thus when, whether in France or elsewhere, declared enemies of an established Government adduce the example of England to claim the liberty of attacking the existing polity, by means of the press, they act under mistaken views:—

The truth is that the example of England proves to us, on the contrary, and in the most striking manner, that the liberty of the press must follow, and not precede, the consolidation of a new State or a new dynasty; that, as long as there are parties hostile to the established order, struggling, not like the Tories and Whigs for the Ministry, but as the Jacobites formerly did, to overthrow the Throne—that is to say, as long as there are nations within the nation, liberty can be given to the enemies of established order only among degenerate nations, who, like the Greeks of the Lower Empire, prefer the right to quarrel and to destroy themselves to the safety of the State.

Then, as for the deductions from all this:—

And now, Monsieur le Préfet, I need scarcely draw up the instructions which I have to give you. If all parties, all writers, really submitting to the constitutive laws of our society, to universal suffrage, which has founded the throne of the Napoleons in order to make it the basis of our institutions—if those parties, those writers, respecting the will of the French people, only desire the liberty of the press for the maintenance and prosperity of the State, then they have, in fact and in law, the liberty of the press in England, and the law on warnings becomes a dead letter. That abuses in society or in the Government be exposed—that the acts of the Administration be discussed—that injustice be revealed—that the movement of ideas, of sentiments, of contrary opinions shall every where awaken social, political, commercial, and industrial life—who can reasonably complain?

But if there are parties who propose to themselves not to have their ideas, their doctrines, and their sentiments accepted by the Government of the State, but to overthrow the State itself—to oppose to the Government such another Government, and to the dynasty another dynasty—then, whatever may be the weakness of those parties, respect for the national will, public interest, and the law, do not permit that passions hostile to established order shall be kept alive; for, without speaking even of any danger, all that retards the fusion of parties in the great family of the State retards, at the same time, the enjoyment of the liberties of our country.

As to the instrument which the law at present existing places in my hands by the system of warnings, I have not to discuss it. Nevertheless, if I may be allowed to express my opinion candidly and without circumlocution, that system, as an exceptional measure, subordinate to the exigencies imposed by the establishment of a new order of things, is doubtless in principle as dictatorial as that founded by the defenders of the House of Hanover; but in application it is more frank and more sincere than if it were disguised under judicial forms in the manner of the Hanoverians. It is likewise infinitely more in conformity with the manners and situation of our country.

It is doubtless a difficult matter, as it has been in England, to define the point which separates useful discussion from that which is injurious to the State. It is an affair of conscience as delicate for a Napoleonic Minister as for a Hanoverian Judge; but, what I can say is, that, if I am ready not to draw back before any responsibility in interdicting the press to make attacks on the State, under whatever pretext or with whatever authority they may be made; on the other hand, I will not consult any private considerations, from whatever quarter they may come, in the resolutions I shall have to take for the purpose of constantly favouring in our country the acclimation, if I may use the expression, of habits of free discussion.

Such, Monsieur le Préfet, is the order of ideas which I recommend to your attention, and which I beg you to take as your rule of conduct in all the propositions which you may have to submit to me. Do not forget that the more exceptional the discretionary power of the Administration is over the press, the more should the exercise of it be directed by a scrupulous good faith. Call to mind more particularly that it is in the interest of the State, and not of the Administration, that this power has been delegated to my Ministry. Let not your sole, therefore, shelter themselves behind that protection, but let them, on the contrary, be, like mine, exposed to public discussion. Lastly, inspire yourself with the great example set you by the Emperor, and be assured that it is only by your zeal for the public interest that you will prove your devotedness to him.

THE AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

THE TWO SICILIES.

King Victor Emmanuel has returned to Naples, whence the news is still far from cheering. Farini, we hear, is greatly disheartened, and feels unequal to the task of maintaining order, unless he may dispose, for that purpose, of a large portion, or of the whole, of the force which is now besieging Gaeta. Now, the siege of Gaeta has been indefinitely prolonged by the interference of France; but, according to the *Daily News*, the Emperor of the French begins to feel "the extreme inconvenience of his position." "We believe we are correct in stating that his Imperial Majesty does not see in the recent course of events a fulfilment of his original intention. When we first announced and complained of his intervention, we expressed our conviction that he merely meant to protect the person of the King, and to save him from a humiliation, a most inadequate reason as it appeared to us. We have reason to believe that that protection will not be longer allowed to become a means of protracting civil war." Meanwhile, the siege of Gaeta is proceeding with new vigour. The fortress is well defended, and the Royalist troops, who briskly reply to the fire of the Piedmontese, have inflicted much loss on them. Hitherto the Piedmontese have only used twenty-seven guns, and, judging from the destruction they have already effected, large results are expected when General Cialdini opens his whole battery, amounting to 107 guns.

The struggle between the reactionary party in the Abruzzi and the troops continues. An outbreak at Penna has been suppressed; but the Ministers at Naples have already been obliged to confess to their provisional subordinates that sufficient military forces to support them everywhere begin to fail them. Addresses offering the Crown of Naples to Prince Lucien Murat are freely circulating in Naples.

The English legion, whose constant differences with the inhabitants of Caserta, where they are quartered, have become insupportable, is to be disbanded. A desperate quarrel occurred between the people and the Hungarians a few days since. One or two men were killed, the Hungarian legion is to be organised on a larger scale, first at Nola, from where, it is said, it will afterwards be directed to Northern Italy.

Francis II. has effected a loan at Vienna, and the Counts of Trani and Trapani, the half-brother and the uncle of his Majesty, have rejoined the King at Gaeta.

The following have been appointed Councillors of Lieutenantcy for Sicily:—La Farina, Director of the Interior; Cordova, Director of Finance; Scalia, Director of Public Works; Pisani, Director of Public Instruction.

ANOTHER PROTEST FROM GAETA.

Francis II. has made another protest, anticipatory of his approaching fall, to the European Powers. It is addressed to his representatives at the various Courts, and signed by M. Casella, his Foreign Minister. In this document Mr. Casella traces the rapid progress of the revolution in the kingdom of the Two Sicilies, and, while admitting that the army was demoralised by pernicious doctrines, and that treason had penetrated even to the Court and Council, contends that the King would have achieved a triumphal return to his capital had not a "perjured and disloyal Sovereign" intervened to prevent it. At the present moment, as the resistance of the fortresses of Gaeta and Messina necessarily depends on a thousand circumstances, it is not probable (says the Minister) that this defence will be as prolonged as the Sovereigns of Europe seem to wish. And, when the fatal and inevitable hour of surrender has come, the King, in the midst of the tears of his faithful followers, will descend from his throne, and will reflect with a just and noble pride that he has not failed to discharge any one of his duties. The document then reviews the conduct of the Sovereigns whose good offices the King had a right to expect, all of whom, with one exception, are accused of indifference and impassiveness. The exception is the Emperor of the French, who alone gave a generous example to abandon this state of universal apathy, and dispatched a fleet to the waters of Gaeta, and gave a fraternal reception to the remnants of the Royal troops, who took refuge on the Pontifical territory—facts which will remain for ever engraven on the heart of the King, and far exceed in value the protestations of friendship offered to his Majesty by the rest of Europe. After a little advice and warning as to the consequences of their conduct in forsaking him, the Ministers are requested to demand formally of the respective Courts their intentions relative to the last and imminent crisis of the Neapolitan Monarchy.

THE CARDINAL AND THE PEOPLE.

A riot which occurred after the arrival of the Cardinal Archbishop at Naples is thus reported in a letter dated December 4:—

On the morning after his arrival a large crowd assembled before his windows to demand his benediction, and that he should remove from his palace the arms of the Bourbons and substitute those of Savoy instead. His Eminence replied that, as for the benediction, the people had got it already from Garibaldi, and ought to be content with that; as for the arms were concerned, he had spoken about them already directly with Farini. On receiving this ironical reply the people broke out into a fearful tumult, and his Eminence hastened to make off to the cathedral, where he had a "Te Deum" sung in celebration of his return. In the meantime the people before his palace had procured ladders, took the Bourbon arms down from over the door of the palace, and placed a large portrait of Victor Emmanuel in their stead. They then arranged themselves in double file from the palace all through the streets through which the Cardinal was to pass on his way, up to the very entrance of the cathedral, with a large flag here and there, or a portrait of Victor Emmanuel. The Cardinal at last issued from the cathedral. He did not lose his presence of mind in face of the extraordinary reception prepared for him, and of the serious and threatening attitude of the people. He bowed right and left, but obstinately avoided giving his benediction, and whenever he passed one of his Majesty's likenesses held in his way, he composed his countenance into the most sardonic smile he could command. At this the fury of the people went on increasing, and with it the noise—a noise such as only Neapolitans can make. People who have heard of it at a distance came running to the palace, where he had now arrived, and the crowd before it thus went on increasing from minute to minute, all now shouting, "Down with the Cardinal!" At last the National Guards arrived on the spot. It had struck seven o'clock. In the meantime, the Cardinal had sat down to his desk and had drawn up a protest against the violence to which he had been subjected. But finally he was seen to open the door of his balcony on which his servants placed the bust of Victor Emmanuel, with two wax candles right and left, which his Eminence lighted himself. He then stepped forward to the railing of the balcony, and gave the people his benediction, who all shouted "Ah! ah! at last!" I was near enough to see the sullen and angry expression of his face whilst he was performing this religious act. I have been told that the Prefect of the Police had got into the palace by the backdoor, and had placed the prelate in the dilemma, either to declare his adherence to the new Government, as the people demanded, or to quit Naples in the space of five days.

ROME.

The last accounts from Rome represent the Papal party as much discouraged, and that M. Merode was occupied with the formation of a new army.

A band of volunteers, under Col. Mari, had invaded Orano. General Goyon was expecting orders to occupy Orvieto.

The rumour has spread in Paris that the French Government now supports the idea of making Rome the capital of Italy, with a residence for Victor Emmanuel at the Quirinal, while the Pope would remain in possession of the Vatican and of the jurisdiction over the city.

We read in the *Journal de Rome* of the 5th:—"The demonstrations which arrive unceasingly at the Holy See from all parts of the Catholic world console the Holy Father, plunged in bitterness by passing events. The addresses and the subsidies of the St. Peter's pence testify amongst other things, to the common love and interest entertained by the children for their father. We are able to announce that the sum received by his Holiness by means of Peter's pence exceeds two millions of Roman crowns."

RAILWAY ACCIDENT INDENITY.—A case was tried on Tuesday in the Court of Queen's Bench arising out of the accident that occurred in May last at King's-cross, owing to the guard, who was intoxicated and asleep, not putting on the brake, by which neglect the train ran right through the station into the street, and many of the passengers were seriously injured, among whom was the plaintiff, Mr. Williams, a flour factor at Manchester. The only question in dispute was the amount of compensation, which the jury fixed at £1200.

SARDINIA AND SWITZERLAND.

The Sardinian Government has protested against the sequestration of the Church property in the canton of Ticino, belonging to the Bishopric of Como. Count Cavour says:—

Without apprising us, without making any attempt at an arrangement, the Swiss authorities placed under sequestration the property and revenues of the bishopric of Como, existing on Swiss territory, deprived the Bishop of the administration of the property which belonged to him, and transferred it to the State. This illegal proceeding was still less consistent with the amicable and kindly relations between Sardinia and Switzerland.

The ecclesiastical nature of the sequestered property by no means invalidates, from an international point of view, the right of proprietorship. The Federal authorities had no more right to seize the property of the Bishop of Como than they would have had to lay hands upon the property of any other subject of the King.

According to the terms of M. Tourle's note, it appears that the Federal Government believed that it had the right of partitioning the episcopal property of Como.

But, viewing the affair in that manner, the fact cannot be excluded that there had been a violation of acquired rights and an outrage—undoubtedly intentional, for I could not attribute intention to the Swiss authorities—an outrage, I say, against the dignity of a friendly Government, which could not be deemed indifferent to the injury that was inflicted on a bishopric of its States. Besides, I must here repeat the declaration that the Government of the King cannot share the opinion of the Federal Council on this point.

The international law invariably consecrated by practice is, that the Government wishing to separate its territory from the jurisdiction of a foreign bishopric shall bear the charges which result from its determination, and that the property and revenues remain entire to the dismembered diocese.

It was thus that we ourselves acted towards Austria when the territory on this side of the Ticino was separated from the dioceses of Milan and Pavia. The old Governments of Modena and Parma acted in a similar manner towards Savoy when they removed a certain number of parishes of their States from the jurisdiction of the Sardinian bishopric of Sarzana.

In default of other examples, we might invoke against the system which Switzerland would introduce in regard to the revenues of Como, the principles which she upheld in the affair with Austria in reference to the bishopric of Caire. However, if the Federal Council has to make any representations, or to propose any transaction, it is clear that the question ought to be presented intact, and that the Government of the King not only cannot consent to enter into negotiations so long as the violation of the property of one of its subjects is persisted in, but that it ought to demand that, in regard to the property, everything be restored to its former state.

We are, therefore, under the painful necessity of having to renew to the Federal Council the demand that the sequestration of the property of the bishopric of Como be raised, and that its free administration be rendered to the Bishop.

MR. SMITH O'BRIEN AND THE FRENCH.

MR. SMITH O'BRIEN has written a letter to a New York journal, containing some excellent advice to the Irish National party. The letter derives a deep significance from the author's own experience, just as a practical acquaintance with intoxication is a prime qualification for a temperance orator. The man who now denounces Gallican tendencies as "in the highest degree injurious to the national cause of Ireland" is the same who in 1848 went on a deputation to the Provisional Government of France to ask its aid for the dismemberment of our Empire, and received from Lamartine a very unsatisfactory reply. Twelve years ago the *United Irishman*, the organ of Mr. O'Brien's party, was instructing the people in its "War Articles" how to blow up English troops by placing gunpowder in cellars under the streets, while vitriol should be poured on them from the roofs of houses. Now, the worst piece of Saxon oppression that Mr. O'Brien himself can point out is the reluctance of our Government to let Irishmen arm against foreign invasion; and his maturer judgment is exercised in demonstrating, by sound and practical arguments, the folly of coquetting with French ambition. Mr. O'Brien does not, indeed, object to "appeals to French sympathy," but he says distinctly, "I am not prepared to encourage—nay, more, I will do all in my power to resist—an invasion of Ireland by France. France will never invade Ireland for the sake of promoting the interests of Ireland alone. I have read history as largely as any ordinary reader, and I cannot call to mind a single instance, down to the last invasion of Italy, in which France has acted a disinterested part in reference to national wars." If France invades Ireland, it will be, says Mr. O'Brien, to wound England and to avenge Waterloo, and the grievances of the Irish Catholics will be but the pretext. The occupation, after all, "would only be of a temporary nature;" "the English nation cannot be conquered by France;" the rest of Europe would, in the last resort, interfere to prevent such a catastrophe; "a peace will be made with England, and one of the conditions of that peace will be the withdrawal of the French troops from Ireland. The withdrawal of that force will be tantamount to a delivery of the Catholics of Ireland to the tender mercies of the Protestants of the Empire," and a "century of disasters to Ireland," would probably ensue.

If the prospects of a separate invasion of Ireland by France are no better than these, what, asks Mr. O'Brien, would be the probable fate of an Irish insurrection, supported by French troops, in concert with a simultaneous invasion of England? In this case he justly anticipates an "exasperated civil war" between the disaffected section of the Catholics and a party composed of all the Protestants and the loyal Catholics. A French force of 20,000 men, sent over to Ireland by way of a diversion, could not hold in check the adherents of English rule in Ireland. A desolating and internecine contest, characterised by all the atrocities of Irish warfare, would exhaust the country, and would end as the Rebellion of 1641 ended. A nation should know its own mind before it raises the banner of independence. Those revolts which have proved successful, such as those of North and South America, of the United Provinces, and of the Two Sicilies, have arisen out of an all but unanimous sentiment in the subject population. Intolerable misgovernment, religious persecution, the antipathies of race, and the arts of agitation, have failed to produce a national movement where this was wanting. We leave it to those who are familiar with the Ireland of 1860 to judge of the feelings with which a project—not of Repeal, but of alliance with France against England—would be received among the Presbyterians of Ulster, or even among the farmers and tradesmen of the other provinces. "The views of France," said Lord Moira in 1803, "will never be seconded but by a desperate and impotent rabble." If this was true but two years after the Union, and before the chief measures consolidating the interests of the two countries had been passed, Mr. O'Brien may well deprecate an appeal by these classes to the "egotistic and selfish" interference of France.

Not content with this, Mr. O'Brien warns to his work, and tells the American-Irish, who are known to be *Hibernis ipsis Hiberniores*, some home-truths. The Irish people are encouraged by the "French party" "to look upon M'Mahon as the future King of Ireland;" and it is with this motive, as Mr. O'Brien conceives, that the sword was presented to one who had "neither done nor suffered in the cause of Ireland." It is impossible, he contends, that any one acquainted with the proceedings and language of the subscribers should doubt that the presentation was "intended to be an intimation that M'Mahon would be welcome here at the head of a French army." The O'Brien spirit rises against such a pretension. "What is M'Mahon? . . . He is simply the agent of a military despot, and he dares not even accept the sword which has been offered to him without the permission of that despot." Mr. O'Brien alludes bitterly to the habit of "idle boasting on the part of a nation which, after all its vociferations and menaces, submitted servilely to the consequences of the ignominious reverses which we sustained in 1848," and recommends his countrymen to practise mutual forbearance and to seek redress by peaceful methods.

DEPARTURE OF THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH.—The Empress of the French left Clarendon's Hotel on Wednesday evening on her return to Paris. The Empress was accompanied to the station by the Duke of Aethal. The Empress was to sleep that night at the Pavilion Hotel at Folkestone, and embark in the imperial yacht *La Reine Hortense* next morning for Boulogne.

IRELAND.

THE IRISH BRIGADE.—Major O'Reilly gives an account of himself and his brigade since its defeat and capture. He thus reports interviews with Cardinal Antonelli and the Pope:—"From the Cardinal Secretary of State, who laid the matter before his Holiness and the Minister of Arms, I received the answer 'That, under existing circumstances, the Government of his Holiness considered it undesirable to retain a large body of force; and that, therefore, the men of the battalion of St. Patrick would be released from their engagement and sent home at the expense of the Pontifical Government—the officers to retain their honorary rank.' Finally, I was honoured with an audience of the Holy Father, who repeated the same instructions, desired me to convey to the officers and men his Apostolic benediction, his thanks for their services, and expressed a wish that as soon as the restoration of the possessions of the Church should make it incumbent on him to provide for their defence he might have a body of chosen Irishmen in his service. I assured him that there would be no difficulty at any time in having a select body of such men. To the Minister of Arms, when his Excellency spoke to me on the subject, I repeated the same assurance, mentioning at the same time that, in consequence of their advised attempts which had been made to demoralise the Battalion of St. Patrick by the intrusion of foreign officers, and especially of Swiss Sergeants of indifferent character, and which I had successfully resisted, I felt it my duty to tell his Excellency that any attempt to obtain Irish soldiers without a distinct and formal understanding on this head could only end in failure. He assured me he would correspond with me on the subject when the occasion should arise. The Battalion of St. Patrick is therefore, for the present, 'disembodied,' a sufficient number of officers remaining to constitute a numerous staff, whenever it may again be called into activity."

MR. JOHN CARDEN AGAIN.—"This gentleman," say the *Dublin Evening Mail*, still haunts with his abhorred presence the lady who has solemnly sworn in a court of justice that she detests the sight of him. For some weeks past he has lurked in the inn at Gort, adjacent to Loughcooter Castle, where Miss Arbuthnot was residing; and, by means of spies, contrived to waylay and intercept her in all her rides, so that she at last, for safety, was compelled to confine her excursions within the walls of her sister's demesne. This is very manly and affectionate on the part of an Irish knight-errant of fifty-three, is it not? Two days since the proscribed lady, accompanied by Captain and Mrs. Gough, proceeded to the nearest railway station, hoping to escape from pursuit. But, through her departure from Loughcooter was accomplished with the utmost privacy, the first person she encountered on the platform was the abominable Carden, panting like a broken-winded charger with the "spleen of speed" by which he had overtaken her. He had there the audacity to attempt to seat himself in the same carriage with Captain Gough's party, but was happily ejected. He proceeded, however, in the same train towards Dublin, and may be at this moment, for aught we can tell, peeping out of some washerwoman's attic in the vicinity of Blackrock, and 'chewing the cud of sweet and bitter fancies.'"

LETTER FROM THE POPE TO DR. MACHALE.—The Ultramontane morning journals publish the following translation of a letter from the Pope, in reply to an epistle from Dr. Machale, "inclosing a sum of £1000, making a total of £3000 contributed to the Papal fund by the Archdiocese of Tuam."—"Venerable Brother, After the receipt of the £2000 which you sent us in the name of your clergy and faithful people, we are now in receipt of £1000 more in the name of the same clergy and people, accompanied with your most dutiful and affectionate letter of the 28th of October, exhibiting in the clearest point of view your anxious solicitude, as well as that of the faithful, to relieve the necessities of the Holy See. But, as we are acquainted with the singular fidelity, attachment, and reverence towards us and this Holy See by which you are distinguished, we are therefore persuaded that you are overwhelmed with grief and affliction on account of the wicked and uncharitable attempts by which enemies warring a most bitter war upon the Catholic Church, on this Holy See, and on ourselves, and trampling on all right, humane, and divine, assail, invade, usurp ours and the Holy See's civil principality. Go on, then, Ven. Brother, pray and beseech the Almighty God to rise and judge His own cause, to humble all the enemies of His Church and of this Holy See, and to bring them back by His omnipotent power to the paths of truth and justice and of salvation, and to aid, strengthen, and console us in all our tribulations. And, considering the confusion and iniquity of the times, the direful hostility to our divine religion which they display, and your well-known piety and episcopal zeal, you will not fail to defend the cause of the same religion, to provide most carefully for the safety of your flock, to refute the multiplied and destructive errors, to expose the frauds, and to render harmless the missiles of its foes. Be convinced of our special regard towards you, of which we wish that the Apostolic Benediction should be a pledge, which, from the bottom of our heart, we very affectionately bestow on you, Venerable Brother, and all the clergy and laity committed to your care."

THE PROVINCES.

PENALTY FOR SELLING A VOLUNTEER'S UNIFORM.—On Saturday an ex-member of the 8th company of the 4th division of the Lancashire Volunteer Artillery was charged before the county magistrate of Liverpool with selling his uniform for £1 18s, leaving a balance of £2 12s. 6d. due upon it to the corps. Conflicting evidence was offered as to the sum actually due, the defendant urging that he had made proper arrangements for the payment of the balance. After he had heard both sides, the magistrates decided to impose the full penalty of 40s. under the Volunteer Act. Costs not being pressed for, the only addition of the fine was 13s. 6d., the costs of the court.

ANOTHER MURDER NEAR WARWICK.—A determined highway robbery was committed at Mead End, near Wroxhall, a few miles from Warwick, on Saturday. A pigdealer, named Smith, was proceeding in the direction of Solihull from the Warwick market when he was stopped by three men, who no doubt expected he had some money, and who asked him if he had "any pigs to sell." They then knocked him down, rifled his pockets of all they contained—viz., a number of receipted bills and a certificate for shooting, and beat him about the head with crabssticks until he was insensible. He was subsequently carried to a neighbouring farmhouse, and on being examined by a surgeon it was found that he had sustained such serious injuries that it is doubtful whether he will recover.

OVERCROWDING IN COTTAGES.—Mr. H. Tucker, magistrate for the county of Berks, has lately employed two persons—the relieving officers of the Farnham Union—to visit every town and village in the union, in order to obtain exact information as to the accommodation and number of inmates in every cottage. Their reports are rather voluminous, embracing the names of the tenants of the various cottages, with tabular statistics, extending over more than eighty pages of manuscript, but Mr. Tucker has published a digest including some of the worst cases reported. The story is full of horrors. In no fewer than ten of the cases the occupiers of these wretched hovels made bad worse by taking lodgers. In one instance a man with three children, and only one small room to live in, actually takes three lodgers—two men and a woman; in another, a man and his wife with five children receive a supernumerary inmate into their miserable apartment, while of one village it is said generally that, though the families are all large, and the single bedrooms all small, "the majority take lodgers." The example produced seems to pass the limits of credulity. One small sleeping-room was all that a labourer had for himself, his wife, and five children; and yet in this room he was positively receiving five lodgers, two men and three women. Of some cottages of which it is reported that "they are scarcely fit to live in," the words are added "said to be ecclesiastical property."

ALLEGED FORGERY BY A LIVERPOOL MERCHANT.—At the Liverpool Police Court yesterday week R. W. Powell, of the firm of Scott and Powell, tea merchants, was brought up on remand, on a charge of having forged the name of Mr. Scott, the father of Mr. Scott, his partner, to a guarantee for £5000, and a bill of exchange for £462 10s. The evidence offered was a repetition of that already given. The prisoner was committed for trial, bail being refused.

THE PENALTY OF ADULTERY.—At the Bury Petty Sessions on Monday, a grocer of that town, named Fielding, was prosecuted for selling a mixture of coffee and chicory as pure coffee. A portion of the article so purchased was sent to the surveying general examiner, at Somerset House, when it was found to contain 33 per cent of chicory. A defence was set up by the defendant, that it was the act of his shopboy, and done without his authority. The evidence was considered by the Bench to be conclusive, and a penalty of £100 was inflicted on Fielding.

THE ROAD CHILD-MURDER.—Paragraphs have been going the round of the papers alluding mysteriously to certain discoveries of an important character, which have recently been made by Mr. Hughes, chief of the Bath police. The evidence alleged to have been brought to light has reference to the probable motive for committing the crime; to the circumstance that the suspected person had worn a flannel similar to the one found near the body of the child, and to the fact that as soon as the boy was missed he ran in a state of the greatest excitement to the house of the Rev. Mr. Peasegood, an intimate friend of the family, and remained there until she was fetched by her father, who came greatly agitated to seek for her.

THE RICKETNESS OF COAL-MINERS.—A man named Jones, employed at the Deep Duffryn Pit, Aberdare—at which place an explosion has recently taken place—was charged with lighting his pipe in the airway (the most dangerous place he could have chosen) the pit, close to where a notice board indicating danger was put up. He was committed to gaol for seven days. A pit-boy was on Monday dead half-a-grown and costs for having in an atrocious, thrown his safety-lamp at another boy, thereby exposing the naked light, and endangering the safety of the Monkwearmouth Colliery wherein he worked.

THE LATE COUNT OF SYRACUSE.

We shall refrain from drawing aside the veil which screens the early life of this Prince, whose recent death we have had to chronicle; for, if common report may be relied on, the career of Don Leopoldo Bourbon, Count of Syracuse, was, until late years, marked only by incidents of a nature to furnish materials for the *Chronique Scandaleuse*.

During the life of the late King, Ferdinand II., or more especially after that Monarch's death, the Count became the sworn advocate of Italian independence, and he gained honourable distinction by the protection which, during the tyrannical reign of his late brother, he extended to all who suffered persecution for their political opinions.

At the commencement of the late Sicilian insurrection the Count of Syracuse addressed a letter to the King his nephew, Francis II., wherein he conjured him to break, once for all, with Austria, and earnestly unite with the King of Sardinia. This letter created considerable sensation at the time, though the recollection of it was submerged in the overwhelming torrent of events.

Subsequently, when the insurrection assumed a more decided aspect, the Count of Syracuse raised his voice a second time in the following excellent letter:—

"Sire,—Though, when I formerly warned you of the dangers which threaten our House, you turned a deaf ear to my appeal; yet at the present moment, of still greater peril, I venture to hope you will listen to me, uninfluenced by the insensate and evil advisers who surround you.

"The altered condition of Italy, and the desire for Italian unity (so decidedly manifested since the fall of Palermo), have deprived the Government of your Majesty of that power by which alone States can be adequately ruled, and have rendered an alliance with Piedmont impossible. The people of Upper Italy, terror-stricken by the massacres in Sicily, have, by their universal vote, sent away the Neapolitan Envoy, and we are now unfortunately left to the fate of arms, standing alone, unsupported by allies, exposed to the vengeance of the masses, who, from all parts of Italy, are raising the cry of annihilation against the house of Naples. Civil war, already raging in several parts of continental Italy, will hurl our dynasty into the abyss, which the ill-advised policy of the successors of Charles III. have prepared for it. Every town in the kingdom will overflow with the blood of its inhabitants; and you, Sire, who but recently were looked up to as the hope of the people, will be regarded with horror as the cause and instrument of civil war.

"Save yourself, Sire, I implore you, whilst there is yet time! Save our House from the curse of all Italy! Follow the noble example of our Royal cousin of Parma, who, on the outbreak of civil war, released her subjects from their allegiance and left them masters of their own destiny.

"Europe and your people will know how to appreciate the great sacrifice, and God will reward your Majesty's magnanimity. When these times of trouble shall have passed away you will view with pride and pleasure the sacrifice you have made for your country. In tracing these lines, Sire, I merely fulfil the duty which conscience imposes on me; and I pray that God



THE LATE COUNT OF SYRACUSE.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY J. BERNOUD.)

may direct you in the right course and render you worthy of his blessing.

"Your Majesty's most affectionate uncle,
"LEOPOLD, Count of Syracuse."

"Naples, Aug. 24, 1860."

When the Sardinians took possession of Naples the Count of Syracuse retired from that capital and proceeded to Turin. He afterwards visited France and England. He died at Pisa on the 4th ult., of a sudden stroke of apoplexy.

CATHEDRAL AT PALERMO.

VICTOR EMMANUEL has already returned from his visit to his Sicilian subjects. Whatever doubt may have existed as to the reception which was likely to be accorded to him has been removed by the enthusiasm with which the people of Palermo greeted his arrival. Nothing could prevent them from taking the horses out of his carriage and drawing him in triumph, amidst the acclamations of the 400,000 persons present, to the Cathedral, where he was received by the Cardinal Archbishop. His Majesty afterwards proceeded to the palace, and was waited on by the authorities and deputations from the municipalities of the island.

Before that noble cathedral, where but a few months ago the soldiers of General Garibaldi marched past with the glorious determination of liberating their country, the King chosen by the people presents himself to ratify the result of the conflict which has given him a new crown and pledged him to a people already waiting to receive him.

The strange, solemn precincts of this ornate building have resounded to the clang of arms and the shouts of a multitude which first welcomed the soldiers of freedom, and have now burst into enthusiasm at the visit of the Monarch who represents to them lost liberty and order. A whole world of history has been recorded for Italy since the first volunteers passed through the Porta Nuova and mustered in front of the cathedral. The people may now celebrate their deliverance, which is only waiting for its completion till the Bourbon is thrust from the remnant of the national soil which he still tries to hold.

THE "SITUATION" AT PEKIN.

THE *Times* has some hints as to the situation of our army in China:—

"We have 12,000 men, Europeans and Asiatics, holding a city of 2,000,000 inhabitants and 120 miles of flat country down to the sea. We have also a fleet anchored in a very shallow gulf, apt to be vexed by storms. Of course, we must reinforce them. We must send them more Armstrongs and more ammunition, and we must also send them more men. But we do not see what else we can send them, unless we can order it away quickly from India. The authorities have scarcely been so mad as not to provide warm clothing for the Sikhs, for it would now be too late to send it from England. But, even if they should have been so thoughtless, the Sikhs will scarcely die of cold. Where 2,000,000 human creatures live and endure a climate which is that of Naples or Washington in the summer, and which, according to Mr. Williams, the American missionary and the Secretary of Embassy to Mr. Reid, is that of Stockholm or Boston in the winter, there must be means of getting warm clothing for 12,000



THE CATHEDRAL OF PALERMO.

men. The Chinaman's expedient is to take two of his thin summer coats and sew their edges together—making one the lining of the other—and then to stuff between the two coats as much raw cotton as will leave room to get into the padded garment. You may get tens of thousands of these coats anywhere in China—Shanghai will supply 12,000 in a week—and, properly applied, they will keep even a Sikh warm in an icehouse. There can be no difficulty in any of these matters. The army is among a population—and a most necessitous population—accustomed to these great changes of temperature, but very sensitive to them, and, therefore, accustomed to provide against them. As to provisions, the same considerations occur. For fresh beef and for sheep they must trust to the 'almighty dollar,' which is nowhere so omnipotent as in China; but Pekin is a city which lives as an army lives—by supplies from a distance. The population is fed from public granaries contributed to it by all the provinces of the empire. As Rome was fed from Numidia, so Pekin is fed from the subject provinces of the South. We are sure that our army will buy when they are sellers; but while these public granaries exist we have no fear that, if there should not happen to be sellers, Sir Hope Grant will allow his men to guard these granaries and starve.

But it will be very cold? Very cold. The Russians have not been communicative as to the winter climate of Pekin, and we gather what we do know of it chiefly from Le Père Hyacinthe, who resided there some time and wrote an account of the city. The Generals, it seems, must lay their account to have to contend against a winter with a thermometer ranging between 10 deg. and 25 deg. Fahrenheit, and the best testimony seems to be that the waters are frozen from December till March. This does not sound very terrible, especially when we remember that there are temples enough all about to house twenty such armies as are now occupying the country between Taku and Pekin, that there can be no reason why a single man should be one night from under cover, and that the Chinese have been so good as to fortify very comfortable posts all along the road.

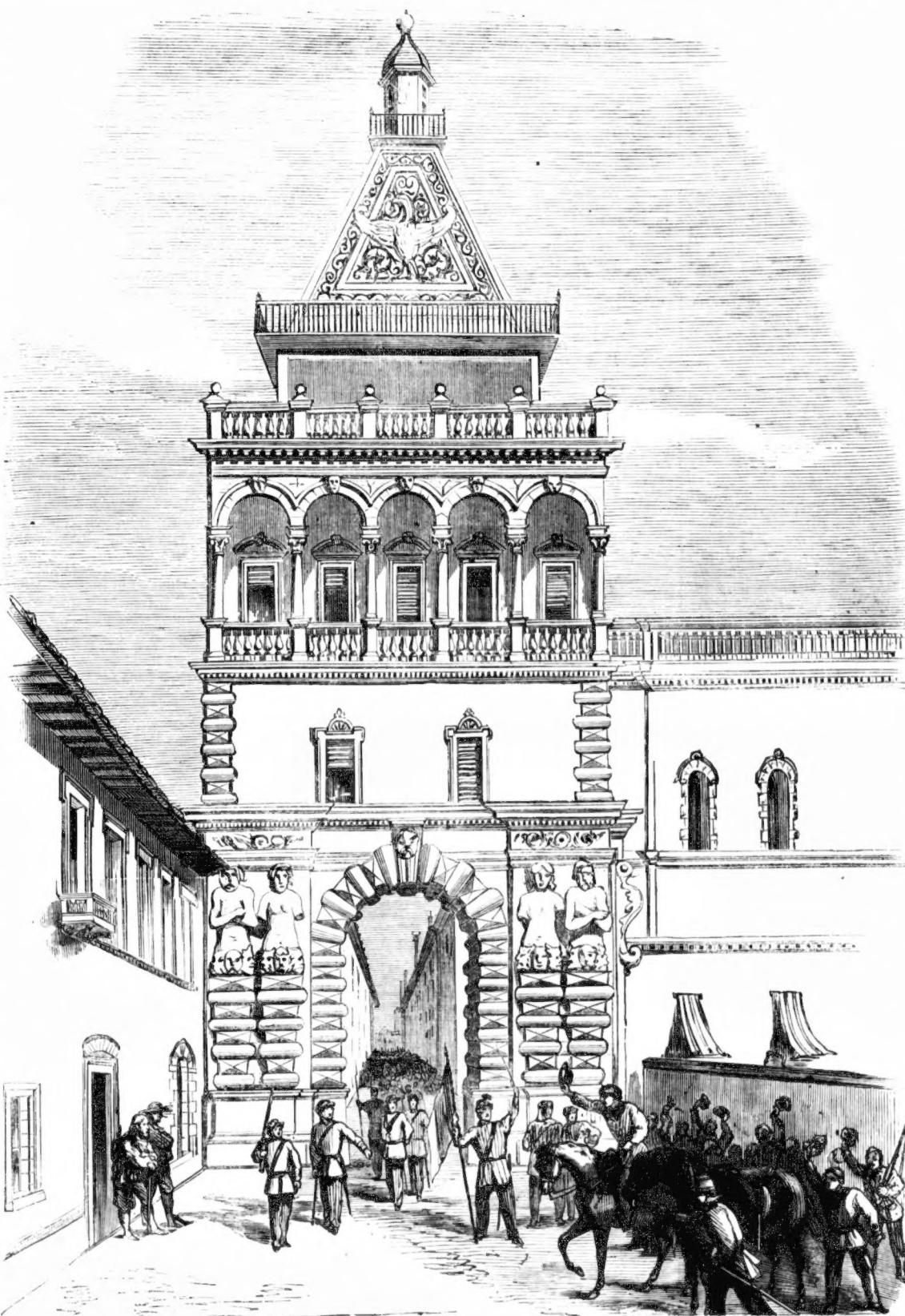
If our people can hold their own against the levies of Sulansin—and we have not much fear that all the hordes of Tartary can do any more than harass our communications a little—then we see nothing either to tremble at or to pity in the position of our Army in China. They must depend upon themselves during the winter months; for the sea is more dangerous than John Chinaman, and the ships cannot lie in that gulf all the winter. They must land their stores and seek a winter harbour. Before the thaws of spring we hope Lord Elgin will have done his work effectually; for with the thaws and the hot sunshine of April will come floods and saturated marshes,

and storms of proverbial fierceness, and fevers, and agues, and ophthalmia. In the present view of circumstances, however, there is nothing to regret, except only our credulity in falling into the snare set for us by the Chinese; and nothing immediately to desire, except only that Lord Elgin should signally punish the murderers of Captain Anderson and Mr. De Norman, and should recover for us in safety Mr. Bowlby and Captain Brabazon.

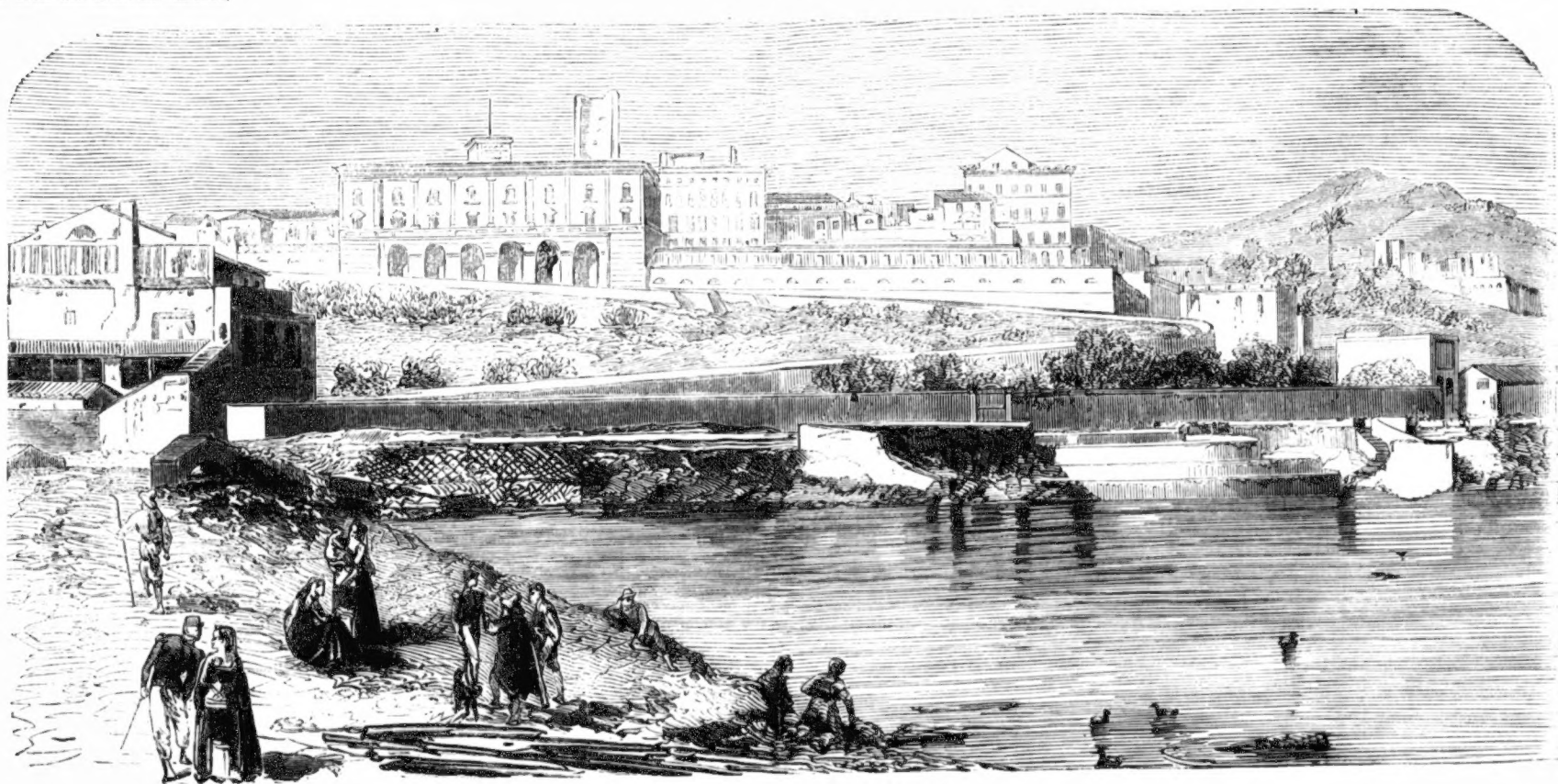
We hear that the intelligence received from China has caused some bustle in the store departments at home. So soon as it was known that the army would winter in China the authorities at the Horse Guards took the initiative, and requested that, instead of waiting for requisitions from the seat of war, as is usual, the Secretary of State for War would issue the necessary orders for the speedy dispatch of every description of stores likely to be required by the troops. This was at once acceded to. The expedition was provided, in the first instance, with an unusually large quantity, not only of all the articles hitherto supplied, but of those items which modern experience has pronounced to be beneficial for armies in the field; and the stores which will shortly be shipped will arrive in anticipation of the demands of the commanding officers. A statement which has been circulated regarding the ammunition for the Armstrong guns and short Enfields is destitute of foundation in fact. Considerably over a thousand rounds per gun were sent out from Woolwich. The success of the arm has been unequivocal, and, as no further supply has been since made, it is not easy to see how "wrong ammunition" can have been sent. As regards the ammunition for the short Enfield, all the rifle ammunition was sent from India, and, as the same cartridge is used for the artillery carbine, the Lancaster rifle, and the long and short Enfield, no mistake can have been made in the matter.

The *Moniteur de l'Armée* gives the following details of the place to which the Emperor of China has fled:—

"Moukden is not in Tartary, properly so called, but in Manchouria. The country of the Mandchoux forms part of the interior provinces of the Empire, and comprises three departments. The first is that of Ching-King, having for its chief town Moukden or Fong-Thean; the second, Ghirin, with a chief town of the same name; and the third Sakhalien-Oula-Khoton, with Tsi-Taikar as its capital. It is in the country of the Mandchoux that are to be found the most devoted partisans of the Tartar-Mandchoux dynasty, which effected the conquest of China in 1644, and still reigns over that vast Empire. Manchouria is separated from the province of Petchi-Li, in which Pekin is situated, by that of Laotang. Between the two last-named provinces are the high mountains of Than-Yen, which are of difficult access, and must



PORTA NUOVA, NAPLES.



THE PAPAL PALACE AT TERRACINA.

have protected the retreat of the Emperor. Moukden is about 490 kilometres (five-eighths of a mile each) from Peking. If the Emperor had retired into Tartary, properly so-called, he would have had to make a journey across Mongolia of 1000 kilometres (625 miles), and pass through some provinces the inhabitants of which are completely hostile to him. We may add, in order to explain the English despatch, that at Hong-Kong, Shanghai, and in the ports of the coast inhabited by Europeans, all the Chinese possessions which have been formerly conquered by the Tartars and by the Tartar-Mandchoux—such as Mongolia, Mandchouria, Dzoungaria, Dauria, and Chinese Turkestan—are all comprised under the general and usual name of Tartary. Moukden was the residence of the Sovereigns of China until 1644, the period of the conquest. It comprises two distinct cities—the Imperial one, which has a circumference of four kilometres, and a magnificent palace; and the other, which surrounds the former, and is 12 kilometres round, and enclosed by a wall much more considerable than that of Peking. The population of Moukden does not now exceed 500,000. The city contains very fine temples, and magnificent buildings of all kinds.

THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE-SHOW.

"The gradual change which is pervading the agriculture of this country, and the more universal adoption of the system of high farming, which necessitates cattle-feeding and the rearing and breeding of stock to ensure a succession of profitable crops, impart every year to the great Christmas cattle-show a higher amount of interest and importance. The question in the agricultural mind is now no longer confined to the "growing five blades of grass where four only grew before," but to learning in how many less months' time an equal quantity of meat can be put upon a bullock; or whether, wool and fat being taken in equal proportions, a Cotswold or a Southdown is the most profitable for the breeder and the butcher. What the Queen's Plate has been to the breed of horses in the past century that has the Smithfield Club been for the last quarter of a century to the English breeder.

The superiority of the English breeds over those of all other countries has been recognised in the various shows on a similar plan that have taken place on the Continent within the last three years; and the interest taken by the highest personages in these agricultural questions has never been more completely evidenced than in the present year.

The Empress of the French paid an unexpected visit to the Baker-street show on Saturday, and was detained a quarter of an hour in the saddlery department whilst the Duke of Athol, who had the honour of being her Imperial Majesty's escort, essayed the difficult task of overcoming Mr. Brandreth Gibbs's scruples as to the preliminary secrecy of the exhibition. His Grace, we are informed, was told that the rules of the show were so imperative that nothing under Royalty could be admitted previous to the opening day, and was in consequence obliged to disclose the name and quality of the illustrious incognita, when, of course, the rules were suspended. On Monday afternoon her Majesty the Queen of England paid her annual visit to the show. Like the Emperor of China, with whom we are likely soon to become more intimately acquainted, the Sovereign of these islands gives annually her august sanction to our rural pursuits, not by holding the plough, as does the Brother of the Sun and Moon, but by visiting the Smithfield Show, and examining with great care and interest the prize specimens of the traditional beef and pork of her people. Her Majesty was on the present occasion accompanied by the Prince Consort (himself a "highly-commended" exhibitor), Prince Alfred, and Princess Alice, the last-named lady being escorted by Prince Louis of Hesse. The Queen paid much attention to the Highland cattle, and took particular notice of the Lilliputian Breton cows which had attracted the attention of the Empress of the French. The Queen and party, at the termination of their inspection, proceeded to Claridge's Hotel, to pay a farewell visit to the Empress of the French.

The show this year may be pronounced an average exhibition. The Devons were, as usual, very fine, though perhaps wanting the admirable specimens which Lord Leicester has sometimes brought forward in preceding years. Mr. William Heath, of Ludham Hall, near Norwich holds the pride of the place in these classes, having gained two prizes of £25 each with animals of great beauty, of the respective ages of two years and eleven months and four years and two months. Mr. Farquharson (of Blandford), Mr. Moxridge (of South Molton), and the Earl of Leicester also took prizes for Devons. The Herefords were less numerous than usual, but extremely good; and a five years and two months' old Hereford cow, bred and fed by Mr. Richard Hill, of Golding Hall, near Shrewsbury, was declared entitled to the gold medal as the best cow in the yard. This animal, we believe, gained the second prize at Birmingham last week. The Durhams showed a slight falling off in the cow classes, but the steers were excellent; and to a remarkably fine ox, shown by Mr. R. W. Baker, of Cottesmore, near Oakham, the gold medal, as the best steer in the yard, was awarded. This was acknowledged to be the finest animal exhibited for several years past. Its symmetry was perfect, and its enormous size will be understood when we mention that its girth is nine feet eight inches. The cross breeds are steadily improving, and some admirable specimens were found in the show.

The sheep classes presented no very remarkable features, if we except the Leicesters, the show of which must be considered unique—nothing equal to them having been seen for many years. Mr. Twitchell, of Willington, near Bedford, carried off the gold medal for the best pen in this class, and was closely followed by Mr. Poljambe, of Osherton Hall, near Workshop, who was awarded a prize of \$26. The absence of the late Duke of Richmond was felt in the shortwooled classes; but his admirable breed was exhibited to great advantage by his tenant and late trainer, Mr. John Kent, of Goodwood, who has gained the gold medal for a pen of Richmond Southdowns. Sir R. Throckmorton showed the next best pen, and for once Mr. Rigden, of Ilwaco, had to succumb in this class.

The pigs were of average merit, some of them remarkably good. Mr. George Morland—a namesake of the great swine-painter—who 'hails' from Harwell, in Berkshire, carried off the gold medal for some animals of the improved Chilton breed, to the great disappointment, probably, of his next-door neighbour in the yard—Mr. Delarue, of the Hasells, near Sandy, who, although a young competitor, showed pen of remarkably fine Essex pigs.

ECCLESIASTICAL SQUABDLES.—In the Court of Queen's Bench, on Wednesday, an action was brought for two assaults by Captain Bosanquet against the Rev. Mr. Heath, Vicar of Enfield. In addition to this there are six other actions, which have all had their origin in the mode of conducting the services in the Clay-hill Chapel of that parish. It was alleged by the plaintiff that there was an entire departure from the observances of the Church of England, and that the Vicar had turned a deaf ear to all remonstrances addressed to him on the subject. Captain Bosanquet, in his capacity of churchwarden, had removed the super-altar cloth, when Mr. Heath laid his hand on his shoulder, with the view of ejecting him from the church. As the place of worship had been built by subscription, £1,000 of which had been advanced by the Vicar, and £649 by Captain Bosanquet and his friends, and the Vicar consequently claiming the Chapel as his own private property, it was, after some conference, agreed to refer it to Mr. Macaulay, Q. C., to determine as to the return of their subscriptions to any of the subscribers he might think fit; also that the other actions pending should be referred to the same arbitration.

THE CAUCASUS.—Accounts from the Caucasus report that the Russians have been committing great devastations. The Dughestanees, whose name has been for so many years celebrated under the leadership of Schamyl, have only *nominaly* submitted to the conquerors. The Naib Gazi Mehmet has already recommenced the struggle, and will carry it on as vigorously as the strength of Schamyl. But the most important phase in the events which have recently taken place was the great meeting of the tribes of Abassia, Tchikpashou, Metobah, and Uuh. The question submitted for decision was—whether they should accept the Russian conditions and evacuate the country, retiring to the right bank of the Kouban and Liba—or, on the other hand, continue the war. The latter decision was unanimously adopted.

POLITICIANS IN THE PROVINCES.

MR. DISRAILLI ON CHURCH RATES.

MR. DISRAELI took occasion, at a meeting of clergy and laity at Prestwood, Bucks, on Tuesday last, to express his views on the church-rate question:—

The discussion of the question of church rates involved that of a National Church. The political and social relations of the National Church to England must be considered. As for the political, the termination of the alliance must break up our parochial constitution; and our political constitution was built on our parochial constitution. The parish was one of the strongest securities for local government; and on local government political liberty mainly depended. As for the social relations of the Church with the community, there were so comprehensive and so complicated, so vast and various, that the most farseeing could not calculate the consequences of the projected change. It was not merely the education of the people that was concerned; it was even their physical condition. He would almost say that if, by some convulsion of nature, some important district of the country, one on which the food and industry of the community mainly depended, were suddenly swept from our surface, the change would not be greater than would arise by the withdrawal of the influence of the Church from our society. The fact was, the Church of England was a part of England—a point of view not sufficiently contemplated by those who speculated on changes in its character and position. It might be asked how it happened that, when so much was at stake, the movement for abolition of church rates had been so active and progressive of late years? He attributed it to the want of union and organisation among Churchmen. When Churchmen were united the Church was never endangered. This was shown in the years that elapsed from 1831 to 1841. During that period England was in a state of semi-revolution, Ireland of semi-rebellion; the Church of England was the chosen arena for the fierce struggle of parties, and Governments absolutely were formed on the principle of appropriating its property to secular purposes. But the Church baffled all these attempts, because Churchmen were united and organised. Why were they not united and organised now? He attributed the want of union and organisation to two causes—first, to the disruption of political parties; secondly, to disputes among the clergy themselves. It was impossible, and, were it possible, it was, perhaps, not to be desired, that in a national Church of a free country like England there should not be discrepancy of opinion among the clergy on matters of ritual, and even, in some degree, of doctrine. It had always been so. Where there is opinion, and especially religious opinion, there will be periods of excess. We lived in one of these periods. They were periods of trial, but not necessarily of danger; and those who too readily augured from them the worst consequences showed an ignorance alike of human nature and the history of their own country. But then the question arose, suppose Churchmen were again united and organised, as he hoped they might be, on what course should they agree with regard to church rates?

They could not moral from themselves that on this subject there were two opinions among their friends. Some were for compromise. What did compromise mean? Did it mean improvement? If so, he was for compromise. It might be expedient that the church rate, levied in a district, should be applied to the church of that district; that, when the rate was levied, the purposes to which it should be applied should be more precisely defined; that the means of obtaining the rate, when voted, should be more prompt and effective; that there should be no particular charge called church rate, but a general parochial rate, from which the necessary expenses for the fabric and the service of the church should be deducted by the wardens, under certain limitations. All these might be improvements, but all these were more matters of detail; and what was the use of attempting to legislate on matters of detail, when the principle was not only contested but even rejected in a branch of the Legislature? But some of their friends would go farther than this. They would exempt the Dissenter from the charge. That was not compromise—that was surrender; it was acknowledging that the Church of England was no longer a national church. But it was conceding more even than that. There was a public charge, of which all the circumstances were of a popular character. It was ancient; it was for a general, not to say a common, purpose; it was levied by public vote. If, in a country where the majority decide everything, the minority were, on the ground of conscientious scruple, to be exempted from a public payment, on what principle could society be held together? Landowners might have a conscientious scruple against paying the public creditor; peace societies might have a conscientious scruple against paying war taxes. What the Dissenters demand is, in fact, an oligarchical privilege, and the principle, if conceded and pursued, may lead to general confusion. But there was one more objection urged by their friends against levying the church rate—that it was impracticable. Was it impracticable? In the vast majority of parishes it was raised with facility. But then it was urged that the parishes which refuse were the parishes of the large towns, and that their aggregate population was scarcely inferior to that vast majority of the parishes in which it was raised. But this immense population were not Dissenters. They were not the votaries of rival creeds and establishments. They were ignorant, or indifferent, or more unfortunate. Were we, then, to maintain that the Church was to retire from the duty of contending with this unsympathising or unbelieving mass? The greatest triumphs of the Church had been accomplished in great towns. If the influence of the Church was limited in great towns, it was not because its means were ineffective, but because they were insufficient. When they considered the nature of the religious principle, he would be a bold man who would maintain that in their teeming seats of industry there might not be destined for the Church a triumphant future. Who could foresee the history of the next quarter of a century? It would not probably be as tranquil as the last. What if it were a period of great religious confusion and excitement? The country would cling to a Church which combined toleration with orthodoxy, and united divine instruction with human sympathies. Is it wise, then, publicly to announce by legislation that the Church of England relinquishes the character of a national Church? On these grounds he could not recommend the present meeting to sanction the principle of exemption. He felt deeply the responsibility of giving such advice; he knew he was opposing the recommendation of the Committee of the House of Lords in 1859, and of what was then, at least, the unanimous opinion of the Bench of Bishops. He need not say that for the House of Lords he felt a profound respect. In maturity of judgment and in calmness of inquiry he thought the labours of the great Committees of the Lords were superior to those of the Commons. In acuteness of investigation they were not inferior; but in the interpretation of public opinion, he thought—and it was, perhaps, in the necessity of things—that the Commons had the advantage. He thought that the Lords' Committee had been precipitate in their course in the matter of church rates; he thought that they had mistaken public humour for public opinion. He was sustained in the difficult and painful course he was taking by the recollection of what occurred in the spring and at the last meeting of the clergy and laity of this deanery. Then the second reading of Sir John Trelawny's bill had been carried by a much-reduced majority, and the advocates of what is fallaciously styled compromise were strongly in favour of what they called seizing the opportunity for a settlement. He (Mr. Disraeli) was of a different opinion. He did not think that the advantage which the Church had then obtained was only a happy casualty. He thought it was the break of dawn. He did his utmost to dissuade his friends from relinquishing the contest, and ultimately, on his sole responsibility, opposed the third reading of Sir John Trelawny's bill. The whole country was agitated on that occasion by the opponents of the Church to regain the lost ground. Instead of that, the majority against church rates, which had sat like an incubus on the Church for twenty years, virtually disappeared. It was in their power, if they chose, to close this controversy for ever—not by a feeble concession, but by a bold assertion of public right. They sent 5000 petitions in favour of that public right to the House of Commons last Session. Let them send this 15,000.

He urged vigorous action on members by the clergy and laity combined, and said, in conclusion, that "on the union of Church and State depend in a large measure the happiness, the greatness, and the liberty of England."

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

The Duke of Newcastle has been installed Grand Master of the Freemasons of Nottinghamshire. A banquet was held at Nottingham in honour of the event, at which the Duke referred to the visit which the Prince of Wales, accompanied by himself, had recently paid to the United States. He said that he believed the visit had been the means of greatly promoting the good feeling existing between this country and the United States. He also adverted to the great popularity which the Queen enjoys on the other side of the Atlantic.

LORD J. MANNERS.

Lord John Manners made a gloomy after-dinner speech at Leicester yesterday week, on the occasion of the local Agricultural Society having a dinner. He took a melancholy view of the last Budget, of our expenditure for iron-plated ships, of foreign politics, and of Lord John Russell's despatch on Italy:—

Even if the prospect of foreign affairs were peaceful, he could not believe we should witness any reduction of expenditure, and he greatly feared the income-tax would be found to be the only mode of replenishing the exhausted—the unwarrantably exhausted—resources of the Exchequer. But, if we glanced abroad, what was it that met our view? The blaze of bayonets and the gleaming of swords. He could see nothing abroad that spoke of peace. He saw everything that spoke of war—war in its most frightful, most awful, most gigantic form; and if he looked at the conduct of Lord

affairs at home he could see nothing to diminish the apprehensions that must be felt by those who looked with attention at the position of the great military Powers of the Continent. After the Emperor of the French laid, by a process which he would not describe, annexed the dominions of Savoy and Nice to the empire of France, the Foreign Secretary of England rose in his place in Parliament and said, amid the cheers of the House of Commons, that it was now necessary for England to revert to her ancient alliances. It was quite understood that the object for which we were to revert to our ancient alliances was to prevent further annexations to France by the machinery of universal suffrage, vote by ballot, and affinity of language. But what had been the more recent course of the same statesman? Lord J. Russell had recently published to the world a document which, unless it were repudiated, must be supposed to speak the sentiments of the Government, and which, stripped of its verbiage about William III. and Vattel, meant that any portion of any people had a right to rise against a Sovereign, to invoke the aid of a foreign Sovereign, and that the foreign Sovereign so invoked had a perfect right, without declaring war, to deprive a friendly Sovereign of his crown and place it upon his own head. He could hardly wonder that, after the publication of a despatch containing such a doctrine as this and directed to such an end as this, the representatives of the Powers of Europe should abstain from meeting the writer of it at the civic banquet in the Guildhall. What would have been the fortunes of our own country during the last quarter of a century if this doctrine had been acted upon by other countries as well as by England? Should we now have counted among the dominions of England, India, the Ionian Islands, and even, in the years 1843 and 1844, the flourishing kingdom of Ireland? On the whole, therefore, whether he looked abroad or at home, he could see no reason to hope that expenditure would be diminished, or that taxation would not take the obnoxious form of a great war income tax in time of peace.

MR. BRIGHT AND REFORM.

A great meeting to promote the cause of reform was held at Leeds on Tuesday night. Alderman Middleton occupied the chair.

A resolution in favour of an extended measure of reform was moved by Mr. Grevs, supported by Elijah Rawlinson, a working man, and Mr. Edward Baines, M.P., and unanimously carried. Mr. Baines concluded his speech, which was generally in favour of Lord John Russell's reform scheme, by expressing the hope that a measure of reform would be insisted on in the ensuing Session of Parliament.

Mr. Bright was warmly applauded. He said there was, by general consent, an opinion that another measure of reform ought to pass, and if the Government intended to keep its place it must give a substantial measure of enfranchisement to the country. He alluded to the fate of the bill of last Session, the principle of which was not opposed, but which could not be carried, owing to the lateness of the Session; and he then asked the audience whether it was content to remain without further political privileges. He next referred to affairs in the south of Europe, and quoted from Lord John Russell's memorable despatch to show that we approved of Italy building up her own edifice of liberty, and he argued from that that no one could object to their meeting together when they had the same object in view. In conclusion, he expressed the opinion that working men were not apathetic on the subject of reform, but that they were too hardworked to enable them to attend meetings, unless there was some powerful motive for doing so. The prosperity of the present time could not be expected always to continue, and another deficient harvest, coupled with the complications of American politics, might render it necessary for Parliament to settle the franchise at once, and in a way far less satisfactory than that which was now offered.

After Mr. Edward Leatham had made a speech in the same spirit, votes of thanks to the three members of Parliament present were awarded, and the proceedings closed.

DIPLOMATIC CHANGES.—Some diplomatic changes were announced in Tuesday's *Gazette*. St. Petersburg has been raised to the full rank of an embassy, and Lord Napier, who is Minister at the Court of the Netherlands has been appointed to the post of Ambassador. Sir John Crampton, our present Ambassador in Russia, has been appointed to represent England at the Court of Spain; and Sir Andrew Buchanan has been transferred from Madrid to the Hague. Russia has followed the example of Austria, and Baron Brunnow has been raised, as Count Apponyi was before, to the rank of an Ambassador at the Court of St. James. Prussia is now the only Great Power which is neither represented by Ambassadors abroad nor sends them in her own metropolis; while Turkey, though not belonging to the conclave of the Great Powers, exchanges Ambassadors with three of them. It is expected that King Victor Emmanuel, as soon as Gaeta and Messina have fallen, will also send Italian Ambassadors to Paris, London, and St. Petersburg, as bearers of the message that he has assumed the crown of all Italy.

SIR CHARLES TREVELYAN'S APOLOGY.—Sir Charles Trevelyan has published an exculpatory statement of the circumstances connected with his recall from the Government of Madras. He declares that the people of India are easily governed, that deficit was "not the normal state of Indian finance" from 1850 to 1853, and that in 1856-7 the deficit was very trifling. Sir Charles Trevelyan maintained that a reduction of the military expenditure was the proper course to adopt, and he says in this new pamphlet that new taxation would have been unnecessary had proper retrenchment been adopted:—"If the same energy which has been bestowed upon devising and giving effect to new taxes had been employed in reducing and manipulating the Bengal military expenditure, the remaining sum required to extinguish the deficit of £9,500,000 might easily have been made good, without any increase of revenue beyond that which was already in progress. My position has always been, that the finances might be restored by administrative arrangements only, without the three new taxes proposed by Mr. Wilson; and my argument, therefore, assumed that the necessary measures would be taken in good earnest, and at the proper time."

POULTRY SHOW AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—The usual winter exhibition of poultry, pigeons, and rabbits, took place this week at the Crystal Palace. The show was a very large one, and was found remarkably attractive. It consisted of 958 pens of poultry and ornamental water-fowl, 366 pens of pigeons, and 86 pens of rabbits. All the best breeds of poultry were represented by first-class specimens, which are not more remarkable for their extraordinary size than for their high condition, beauty of plumage, purity of race, and uniformity in the markings. In addition to the poultry there was a show of agricultural reeds, and the interest of the exhibition was still further increased by the presence of four Lilliputian African horses, not more than 30 inches high, three sheep, weighing altogether about 50lb., and six of the smallest cows ever seen in this country.

SAYERS.—The subscribers forwarded to *Bel's Life* office for the ex-champion, Tom Sayers, have been handed over to the trustees. The money, which amounts to the sum of £2,814, will be so secured that it cannot be touched by Tom's creditors, nor will he be able to assign away or anticipate the income arising from it. It is expressly provided that in the event of his again entering the ring the trustees shall at once devote the whole amount to the benefit of his children.

THE DEAD-WEIGHT ANNUITY.—In the year 1823 the several pensions payable to the retired officers of the Army and Navy, which were granted after the battle of Waterloo, amounted to a large sum of five millions annually. The amount was lessening every year, and it was calculated that on the average of mortality the whole would come to an end in forty-five years. This suggested the idea of offering to a great public body a fixed annuity for that term of years, in consideration of their relieving the public of a part of the immediate payment. The Bank of England accepted the offer, and advanced the sum of £11,000,000 towards buying up the pensions, receiving from the Government an engagement to pay them an annuity of £585,710 until the year 1867. This annuity was, and is to the present time, very appropriately termed "the dead weight."

THE CRYSTAL PALACE COMPANY.—The directors of the Crystal Palace Company have prepared their report, to be submitted to the meeting of proprietors on Wednesday next. Altogether, affairs wear a more hopeful aspect than hitherto, and justify the expression of satisfaction with which the directors invite the shareholders to inspect the figures. The income from all sources for the year was £120,039; expenditure, £72,261; leaving a balance on the right side of £48,038, which, with the reserve from the previous year, admits of a dividend of 2 per cent on the ordinary stock. A considerable increase in the number of visitors is shown, the total being 1,531,951. In anticipation of the Exhibition of 1862, the directors have it in view to hold a musical festival on the most magnificent scale, and purpose making arrangements with the Sacred Harmonic Society for that purpose. Reference is made to the projected connection of the Palace with Farringdon-street, which would prove of immense benefit to the company. The receipts for season tickets and half-season tickets is set down at £12,374; for Mendelssohn Festival, Orpheonist Festival, and other concerts, £11,505; for special concerts and fetes, £11,194; refreshment contracts, £15,038.

THE QUEEN AT OXFORD.—Oxford was honoured with a Royal visit on Wednesday. The Queen, the Prince Consort, Prince Alfred, Princess Alice, Prince Louis of Hesse, travelled by special train from Windsor to Oxford in the forenoon, view the lines of the place, took luncheon with the Prince of Wales at his residence, Friar's Hall, and returned to Windsor Castle about five o'clock. The Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of Christ Church were invited to meet her Majesty at luncheon.

Literature.

Autobiography of the Rev. Dr. Alexander Carlyle, of Inveresk: containing Memorials of the Men and Events of his Time. Edited by J. H. BURTON. 8vo, pp. 576. W. Blackwood and Sons.

We have always been of the number of those who set their faces against anti-eighteenth century cant, and especially against that manner of looking at the men of the time which turns aside from the simple grandeur of Washington the Great to find a hero in Frederick the Very Small. Dr. Carlyle is a favourable specimen of eighteenth-century manhood, and it he led, by good luck, indulged in any excesses (like Mirabeau or Burns, for instance), or in any brutalities (such as kicking and cuffing a daughter, like Frederick), or done anything daringly exceptional, to throw the rest of him into relief, he would have made a first-rate hero for treatment in that style which has "I think" and "I take it" thrice in a page, and habitually begins sentences and paragraphs with conjunctions so seldom applied. Even as it is, we hardly understand how he has escaped that kind of treatment. Truly, a king of men, my brothers! A soul with a mighty, untamable force in it—that must needs do, or pass away into nothingness. Not a voluble man; not flimsy; not apt to explode upon small occasions. Quite other, I think! A man, my brothers, that stood six-feet six in his hose, more or less. A man of considerable strength indeed. Keen gray eyes, under craggy brows; chin protruding, somewhat of the hardest; long, flowing hair, unshakled by the prevalent wiggy of those times; shoulders broad and brawny; and carriage mountainous and resolute. Altogether a "Benicia Boy" of a man—a strong Berserk soul, that knew something of the Relentless Veracities of the ring of life, and could, upon need shown, put in its left with, I think, some visible effect! But what, in the name of Criticism, are we to do with such a fellow in a column or so? He's too large for the paper, and we can only show a little odd brick of him here and there, according to our poor discretion. The passages we have marked for extract or abbreviation would alone fill three times the space we can afford.

Dr. Carlyle was simply a Presbyterian minister, who, without setting before him any of the usual or unusual ends of personal or patriotic ambition, became, by sheer force of brain and physique (for a happy combination of the two will always be found in such men), one of the most respected and influential men of his time. By the standard of that time, however, he must in all things be judged, or he will be depreciated in wrong places. Such a place, for example, as that in which he says of Simson, the mathematician, that "he was master of all knowledge, even of theology, which he told us he had learned by being one year amanuensis to his uncle the Professor of Divinity." Or that again, in which, after mentioning that certain of the professors (Hutcheson and Leechman—the Hutchesons) "were supposed to lean to Socinianism," he goes on to say, quite innocently, that "men of sense, however, soon perceived that it was an arduous task to defend Christianity on that ground, and were glad to adopt more common and vulgar principles . . . which it was not easy to demolish." These are certainly very eighteenth-century touches—that a mathematically-minded fellow should learn "theology" by a year's writing to dictation, and that men should show their "sense" by deserting a ground because it was "arduous," and adopting "vulgar" principles because they were "not easy to demolish." Another specimen of the same tone or cast of mind occurs in an anecdote of a student who stole his sermon from some crack preacher, "unfortunately" for whom (this adverb is used by Dr. Carlyle with perfect bonhomie, not sarcastically) the theft was discovered by his fellow-students. This, according to our Diarist, was simply a case of "folly and imprudence." One more instance of the very innocence of worldly-mindedness occurs to us. Of his first sermon this parish minister says, with the most Arcadian simplicity, that he "had the satisfaction to find it had met with universal approbation." "The gentle people of Prestonpans parish," says he, "were all there; and one young lady, to whom I had been long attached, not having been able to conceal her admiration of my oratory, I inwardly applauded my own resolution of adhering to the promise I had made my family to persevere in the clerical profession." What is meant by the young lady "not concealing her admiration" we do not know; but the question almost suggests itself, Did she clap? For, later on in the diary, when Dr. Carlyle goes to London, he sketches a curious scene in the Magdalen Chapel on a Sunday evening. It seems it was so "much the fashion" to go thither, and "the crowd of genteel people was so great," that seats were hard to get. The preacher was that miserable Dr. Dodd, about whom we strike out an uglier adjective only because we remember that he really expiated his worthless life at the gallows, and is past to that Other Country, where it may go hard with some of us one of these days. The "unfortunate young women" were packed away in a "littered" gallery where "you could only see those who chose to be seen." Dodd preached from (says Dr. Carlyle) "If a man look on a woman to lust after her, &c." (the quotation is not quite correct—too bad for a clergyman!) and delivered a most indelicate sermon, which was "a shocking insult on a sincere penitent," and "fuel for the warm passions of the hypocrites." The "fellow," continues Carlyle, "was handsome, and delivered his discourse remarkably well for a reader" (the Scotch clergy recited their sermons). But what follows reminds us of primitive Christian times, when the audience gave loud expression to their feelings after a sermon, and thought it not indecorous to break out into exclamations of "golden-mouthed Chrysostom!" and so forth. When Dodd had finished, there were "unceasing whispers of applause," which Dr. Carlyle "could not help contradicting aloud, and condemning the whole institution, as well as the exhibition of the preacher, as *contra bonos mores*, and a disgrace to a Christian city."

Talking about good manners, a curious tale is told by the diarist about his induction into his parish of Inveresk. The pious folk found him "too young," "full of levity," and so on; he "had not the grace of God;" he "wore his hat *à l'anglaise*;" "danced;" kept "superior" company, and "had been seen galloping down the Links one day between one and two o'clock." But, said one Mistress Ann Hall, a very influential person thereabouts, "it is foreordained that he shall be your minister. He foretold it himself when he was but six years of age, and you know that 'out of the mouths of babes and sucklings,' &c. The prophecy was as thus:—When the man was a child he had been told that he should one day preach in his father's church. 'No,' says he, on some childish impulse (for which he suggests himself an unlikely and too favourable reason), 'I'll never be minister of that church; but your's my church,' pointing to the steeple of Inveresk. Mrs. Ann heard this, and years after, when Alexander was about to be presented, told the story 'twenty times every market-day to the Musselburgh people for several months,' and the opposition to the new minister died away. We must draw to a close, with two extracts, which will give a better idea than any general observations of ours could do of the sort of pictures of the times the book contains. One shall be

THE FAIR LADY OF BRIDEKIRK.

I had never seen such a virago as Lady Bidekirk, not even among the other-women of Prestonpans. She was like a sergeant of foot in women's clothes; or, rather, like an overgrown coachman of a Quaker persuasion. On our peremptory refusal to alight, she darted into the house like a hoghead down a slope, and returned instantly with a pint bottle of brandy—a Scots pint, I mean—and a stray beer-glass, into which she filled almost a bumper. After a long grace, said by Mr. Jardine—for it was his turn now, being the third brandy-bottle we had seen since we left Lochmaben—she emptied it to our healths, and made the gentlemen follow her example. She said she would spare me as I was so young, but ordered a maid to bring a gingerbread cake from the cupboard, a luncheon of which she put in my pocket. This lady was famous, even in the Annandale border, both at the bowl and in battle. She could drink a Scots pint of brandy with ease; and when the men grew obstreperous in their cups, she could either put them out of doors, or to bed, as she found most convenient.

The other shall be

CULLODEN AND SMOLLETT.

I was in the coffeehouse with Smollett when the news of the battle of Culloden arrived, and when London all over was in a perfect uproar of joy.

It was then that Jack Stuart, the son of the Provost, behaved in the manner I before mentioned. About nine o'clock I went to go home to Lyons, in New Bond-street, as I had promised to sup with him that night, it being the anniversary of his marriage night, or the birthday of one of his children. I asked Smollett if he was ready to go, as he lived at Mayfair; he said he was, and would conduct me. The mob was so riotous, and the equis so numerous and incessant, that we were glad to go into a narrow entry to put our wigs into our pockets, and to take our swords from our belts and walk with them in our hands, as everybody then wore swords; and, after cautioning me against speaking a word, lest the mob should discover my country and become insolent, "for John Bull," says he, "is as haughty and violent to-night as he was subject and cowardly on the Black Wednesday when the Highlanders were at D-rive." After we got to the head of the Haymarket through incessant fire, the Doctor led me by narrow lanes, where we met nobody but a few boys at a playful bonfire, who very civilly asked us for sixpence, which I gave them. I saw not Smollett again for some time after, when he showed Smith and me the manuscript of his "Tears in Scotland," which was published not long after, and had such a run of approbation. Smollett, though a Tory, was not a Jacobite, but he had the feelings of a Scotch gentleman on the reported cruelties that were said to be exercised after the battle of Culloden.

The anecdotes of Hume, Blair, and some other celebrities, are not very instructive, to our thinking; but the book, as a whole, is exceedingly valuable as well as interesting. We must all long ago have discovered, and some of us have long ago insisted upon what the keenest of our weekly contemporaries has lately remarked—namely, that the worth of picturesque detail in annals has been overrated; but, after all, it has great worth, and, given at first hand, as in this book, it has a worth not calculable by critics, because it varies with every intellect that reflects upon the material supplied.

Hints and Helps for Every-day Emergencies, in Connection with Social Economy, Domestic Economy, Rural Economy, Household Medicine, Casualties and Accidents, &c., &c. Ward and Lock.

Some books belie their title at the first glance. Not this, however. We opened it upon Hint 253, which shows how (more or less) "to obtain Release from Debt." If this is not a question of every-day emergency we do not know what is; and we are bound to state that the author goes into his subject with his shirt-sleeves rolled up, as the Americans say. But, diamond cut diamond, Hint 254 is "Method of obtaining Payment of Debts," a subject of which the treatment is equally happy, so far as its own resources extend. But it is most encouraging to see how this ingenious writer is cramped by the actual limitations of the case, for 254 is neither so readable, nor so available and helpful an article as 250. Plainly, it is easier to dodge a creditor than to force a debtor to pay. This is in accordance with the true spirit of Magna Charta, the Habeas Corpus Act, and every other Palladium of British Liberty.

Some of the Hints are startling enough. "Keep clear," says the author, "of shutters when shops are being opened or closed." This is very sound advice; but it is rather bald. The question is, how to do it in case of "emergency," as per titlepage—that is, in case the "shutters" will not keep clear of you? Again, the pedestrian in crowded streets is told that he must "constantly watch the person behind whom he is walking, so that, if he stop short, he may not be stumbled over." Very good; but the next bit of advice is—"Keep your eye out of the dangerous proximity of butchers' and bakers' trays, points of umbrellas and walking-sticks, and other awkward protuberances." We submit that this is inconsistent. If I am "constantly watching" the man before me, how can I tell that I shall not run against "protuberances" all around me? Now then the author is both inhuman and ill-advised. "When any person shouts 'Hi!' or otherwise endeavours to attract your attention, pass on without taking the slightest notice." But that is just what the selfish Levite did in the parable of the Good Samaritan; besides, suppose you have dropped something, and the person calling "Hi!" wants to restore it to you? This "Hint" should have been confined to the 1st of April. Excellent is the following:—"If any person tread on your toes, walk on; it is useless to remonstrate when the thing is done"—only it should have stopped at the word "remonstrate;" for a man can hardly go along the street "remonstrating" against his toes being hurt before "the thing is done."

To be quite serious, this little book contains a thousand times its value in really useful matter; and if Messrs. Ward and Lock would issue a Key (we mean no pun, though the Door is open for several) to some of the "Hints," such as we have quoted, it would be a manual beyond praise. Let a man buy this book. Let him shut himself up for a week, and make notes of the different articles he is recommended to possess himself of, and the different arrangements he is advised to make in case of "emergency." Let him then spend another week in getting together those articles, and making those arrangements—and we should despair of getting round such a man.

The Pioneer of Progress; or, the Early-Closing Movement in Relation to the Saturday Half-holiday and the Early Payment of Wages. By JOHN DENNIS. Prize Essay. Hamilton, Adams, and Co.

"Early Closing" has already partially come to pass, and it is certain that before long it will become the custom of the land. Under these circumstances it might be imagined that the movement might take its own satisfactory course and be no further impelled by literature, even in the deliciously-lively form of a prize essay. On the contrary, nothing could be more fatal to the cause than to cease the agitation; and even a collection of the worn-out, dull moralities that have been preached for ages on the subject would be useful, even if only as an unpleasant reminder to the forgetful. This little book, by Mr. John Dennis, although it is certainly troubled with much fine writing collected from eminent persons, is still more valuable because it also contains that which is of the highest importance—the results of the Early-Closing Movement, as far as it has gone. The results are a most satisfactory answer to every objection that has been raised. In every way the results have been gratifying to employers as well as to employed. The highest and most exact authorities are given for the facts. The skittle-alley is not the chosen resort of the young man released for a few hours from his hard employment. The seductive smiles of the young lady behind the bar are not strong enough for him. Highbury Barn and the Eagle do not claim him for their own, and, by-the-way, it need not follow that he should be demoralised if they did. But the Greenwich boats, the railways, the Crystal Palace, receive cheerful faces, accompanied by wives and families; and the holiday is usually passed in a manner simple enough to excite ridicule even amongst many of the moralists themselves. The employers who have tried the new system give evidence to the effect that they actually gain by the change, the extra cheerfulness diffused amongst the employed acting like a song amongst sailors to bring the anchor home with a stronger and more unanimous effort. If these chiefs of the mercantile classes are to be believed, society will not have to wait long for the measure becoming universal, when all classes are to benefit by it.

My Little Book. By ARTHUR BROWN. James Blackwood.

Mr. Arthur Brown commences with a preface which, in olden phrase, disarms criticism. He is perfectly good-natured. If a failure, he reserves the right of being satirical on the folly of expecting that true merit will find popular favour. He wants it to sell, and, at all events, hopes it will pay the printer. Considerable experience of "little books" and amateur literature enables us to form an opinion on this subject; but raven-croaks and prophecies are unsuitable to the season. We hope the best for the printer and for Mr. Brown. The "Little Book" contains a handful of light magazine papers and a comedy. The latter we did not get through, but the papers are of a different stamp, and will command laughter. "The Funniest Man in the World" is an excellent story of a poor fellow laughing himself to death; and, though the author does not put a solitary joke in the sketch, he tells the story with what is far more creditable—considerable humour. Perhaps, however, he is not aware that his idea is not original. It is to be found in the admirable verse of Oliver Wendell Holmes, across the Atlantic.

In it a servant is cautioned not to look at his master's "copy" as he takes it to the printer. He dies in the face of the injunction, and is taken home in agonies of convulsive laughter. The poet writes—

Throughout the long and dreadful night

I watched the wretched man;

Since then I've never dared to write

As funny as I am.

Mr. Brown's version is longer, and in prose, and would do no discredit to writers of established reputation. Other papers have peculiar merits. "What's to be done with the Baby?" is a complaint from a recently-manufactured father of the total neglect of himself for his offspring; and another paper, "Truth is stranger than Fiction," is an ingenious mystery as to whether a certain occurrence is genuine metempsychosis or merely brandy-and-water. "The Little Book" is really readable and amusing.

Chapters from the Life of James Tacket. Glasgow: Murray and Son.

A quaint little volume from the North—a cheerful view of "the short and simple annals of the poor." It is impossible to say whether Mr. Tacket be or be not a genuine personage; he may be an invention, to become a guide, philosopher, and friend; for which offices he is not unsuited, inasmuch as he has had great experience, is no bore, and has become magnificently wealthy. The author tells us that the events really happened—the events consisting principally of minor calamities happening to the author at the very moment when they are least welcome. Thus his first hat blows off into the gutter just as he is showing off to some ladies on entering church. He falls into a ditch at the very moment of love-making. He is caught by his hinder garment in the branch of a tree whilst sentimentally plucking fruit for his second love. Such incidents sound woefully small; but in Mr. Tacket's own language they bear an interest closely analogous to that excited by Smollett, whose humour is too frequently of the uncomfortable and practical jesting stamp. There is plenty of love-making, a little starvation, and an old eccentric gentleman, to make Tacket's fortune at the close. These sketches, we fancy, are very fair pictures of the humbler Scottish provincial life. They teem with good-nature and humour; although much of the latter is incomprehensible to us, as, at the time of our youth, the niceties of the Scotch language did not receive that attention at the Universities which has since been deservedly attained.

THE TRENCH BEFORE GAETA.

LAST week we gave our readers an Engraving of the Mola, Gaeta, where the Piedmontese troops had pushed forward their operations and were already commencing a bombardment of the town and fortress. Our present illustration represents the forming of the trench from which subsequent attacks were to be conducted. Already the holding the place by the troops of the late King must be a desperate attempt, for, with 30,000 men surrounding it, an effective trench opened, and numerous batteries in operation, their case must be desperate indeed. Yet Francis II. persists in the attempt, and, sitting there in his palace, determines to hold on till the last moment, while the projectiles from the Piedmontese mortars are destroying the houses and demolishing the churches and public buildings.

Still, the troops of Victor Emmanuel cannot totally invest the place while the sea remains forbidden to them beyond the line of the blockade established by the European Powers; and then, again, there is Terracina, where the Pope holds a residence (represented in an accompanying Engraving), that has already been occupied by the French troops, and furnishes to the besieged fortress a large proportion of the provisions necessary to sustain the siege. This town (Terracina) is situated on the extreme frontier of the Papal States, and the Piedmontese were about to occupy it, but were forbidden to do so by General Goyon, who also refused a proposition to allow a garrison to be established there composed of a mixed force of French and Sardinian troops. So the bombardment continues, and the besieged are living a life of constant anxiety. A letter from Gaeta, dated Dec. 1, says:—

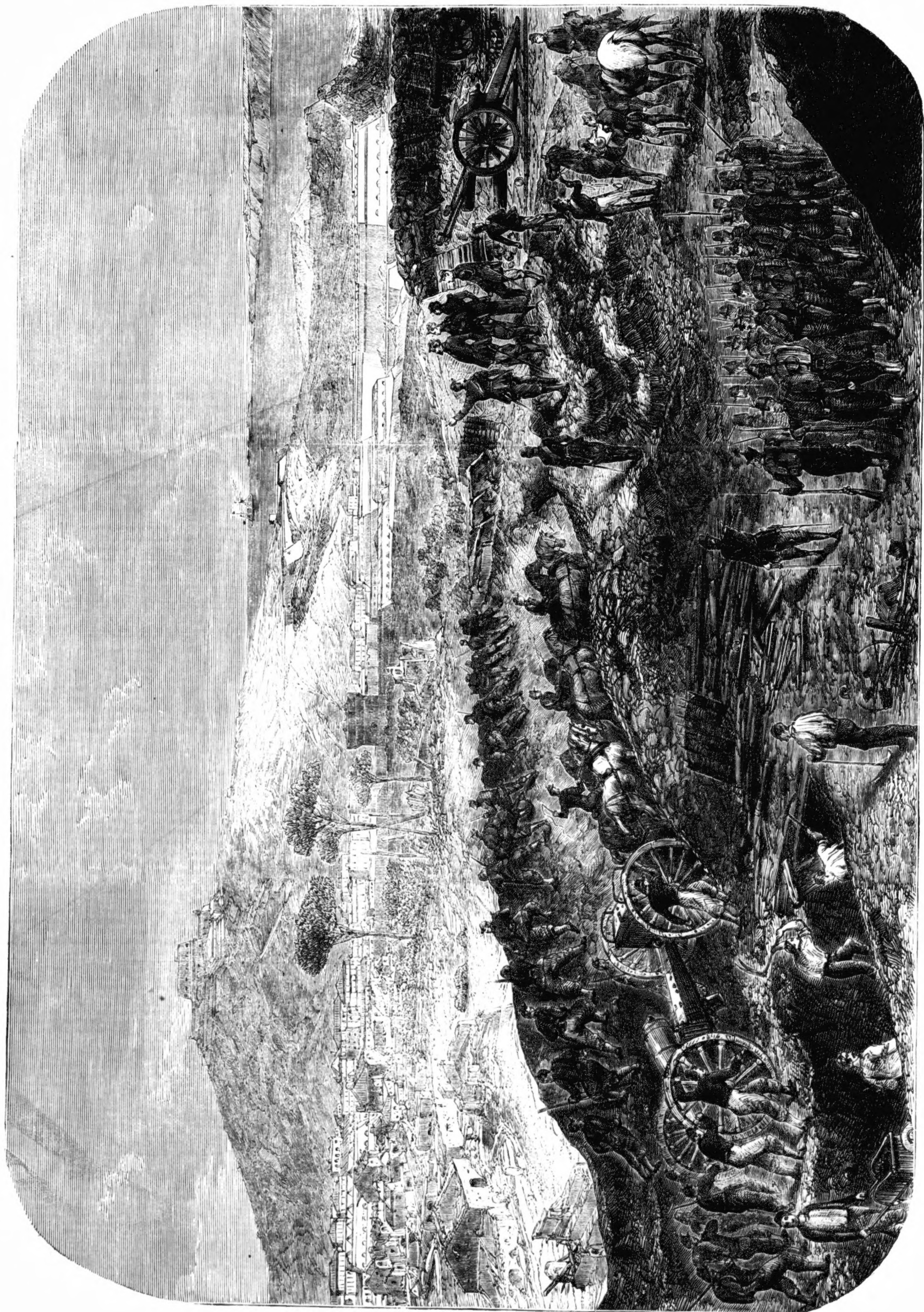
"There is not the slightest noise from the Piedmontese lines—not a shot from them. We cannot explain the present respite, but I suppose we shall hereafter be fully repaid. It is believed that the Piedmontese have erected batteries armed with mortars and cannon, but at a great distance, and they are waiting for more rilled cannon to begin from all together. We continue to fire at short intervals whenever we can perceive any collection of troops. The firing was lively on Tuesday night, and several of the Princes were in the batteries at midnight. The Piedmontese expected a sortie last Saturday night, and they concealed a large infantry force in the suburbs, with some artillery and a squadron of cavalry. There was no sortie, but they experienced a deluge of rain, with plenty of shot and shell. We have not, however, been able to ascertain the amount of their losses. It will be necessary, perhaps, to burn the suburb which shelters the enemy, but the King hesitates to do so. The Piedmontese Bersaglieri who were captured during the battle of the 12th of November have been exchanged for five priests and four surgeons who were made prisoners at Caserta when that place surrendered. General Salzano quitted this on board the steamer *Aventis* for Civita Vecchia, together with fifty soldiers and the families of some officers, but the steamer was obliged to return here by bad weather. She sailed again on Tuesday, but Salzano remained here, and I do not know when he intends to quit us. Bertolini has succeeded in being replaced on the general staff. The spirit of our troops is much better than it was three weeks since, but life is dull at Gaeta, as there is no kind of amusement whatever."

Terracina, the scene of the French occupation, is situated on the highroad from Rome to Naples, in the track of the ancient Via Appia. The buildings which line this road were mostly built by Pius VI., who also had constructed the elegant palace which, with the cathedral, rises high above the town.

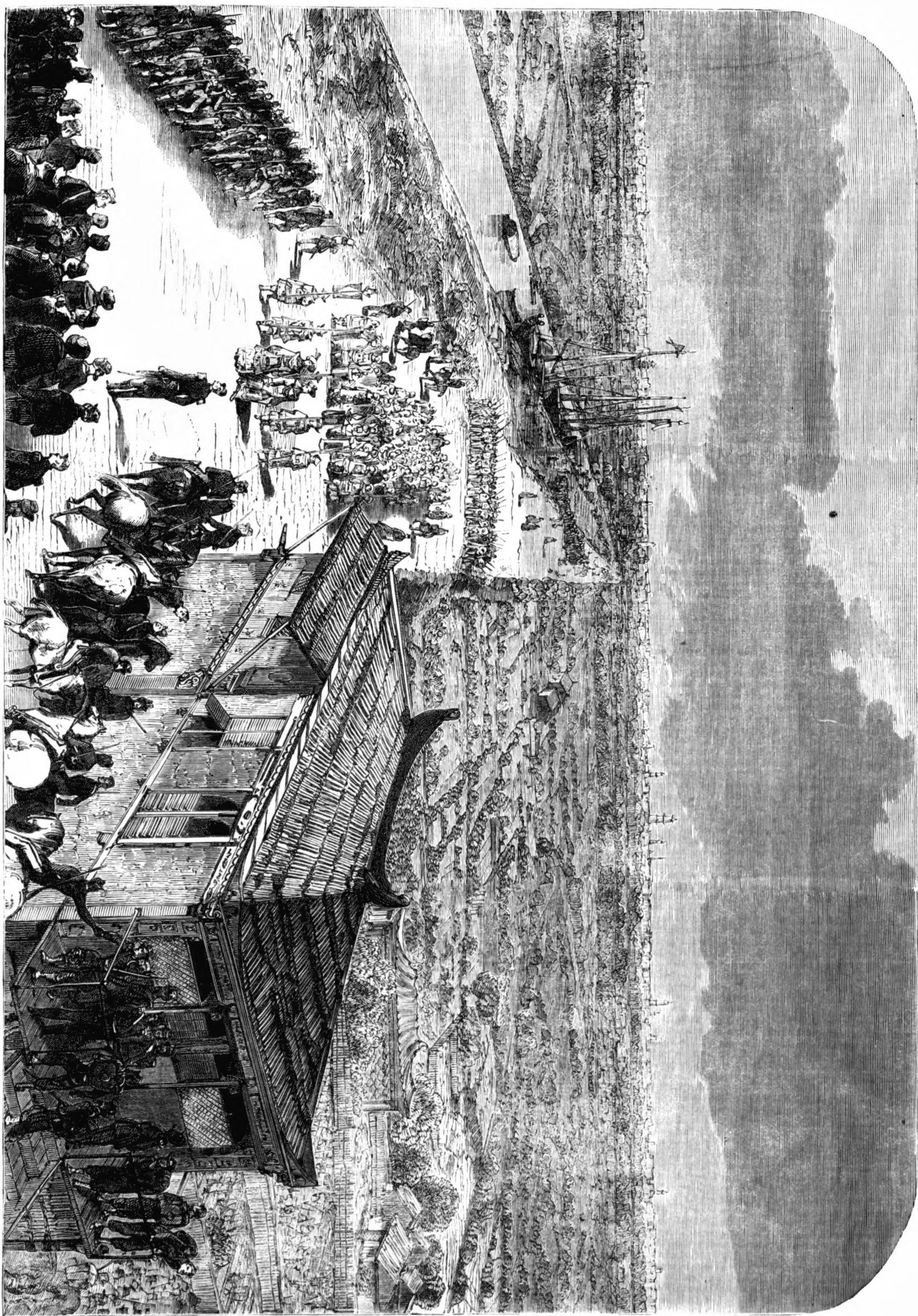
BUTCHERY IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.—A shocking butchery has been perpetrated by the natives of Buckatoo, one of the South Pacific islands. The victims of the atrocity formed part of the crew of the whaler *Henrichs*, commanded by Captain Brown. According to the ship's log-book the carpenter and five of the crew went on shore to cut some spars and firewood, when they were attacked, and, with the exception of one man, who swam off to the ship, murdered in a brutal manner. An attempt was afterwards made by the savages to gain possession of the vessel, but fortunately they were driven off and defeated.

A BOLD EXPLOIT.—While the frigate *Anethyst*, just returned from the Pacific, was blockading the coast of China, her crew performed a very clever and daring act. An Austrian brig, laden with coffee and sugar, was captured at sea by some Chinese rebel pirates, who moored her under one of their own forts. When the fact became known it was determined to attempt a rescue by those on board the frigate. Her two cutters and pig were manned, and placed under charge of the master. With muffled oars they approached the brig in the night, and boarded her by the forechains, cutlasses in hand. Much to their surprise, the only person on board was the Austrian mate, who instructed them where to find the shackles of the chain cable. They then dropped a keedge-anchor some distance ahead, and, unshackling the cable, quietly warped the brig from under the rebels' guns into a position where canvas could be spread, and sailed safely out of the harbour.

THE RIFLE COLLETRY EXPLOSION.—An official return gives the total loss of life by this accident at 139. In the part of the work of recovery proceeds but very slowly, as may readily be imagined, from the condition of the air, both from fire-damp and the shocking odour proceeding from the decaying bodies of both men and horses. The following startling incident is narrated by one of the miners employed in getting the bodies out of the pit after the catastrophe:—"One night three of us were getting out three bodies over the top of the 'fall.' One of my comrades had gone on with his corpse before me; one was coming up the side of the 'fall' with his corpse behind me; and I was in the middle with my corpse on my back, and his hands around my neck, like, which I was holding him on by. But I was not able to get to the top of the 'fall,' and my comrade behind me got ahead with his corpse, and there I was all alone with mine. Now, with my Davy lamp in one of my hands, I couldn't catch hold of the stuff at the side, to get up to the top. So then I put the lamp in the dead man's hand—no, I put his hand through the ring of the lamp, like, and then I used my hand I had been carrying the lamp with to lay hold of the stuff at the side; and so, with my corpse carrying the lamp to light us, I got over and brought up the body."



THE SIEGE OF GAETA: OPENING OF THE TRENCH BEFORE MONTE SECCO.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. ANSEY.)



THE WAR IN CHINA.—ARRIVAL OF THE CHINESE PLENIPOTENTIARIES AT THE CAMP OF THE ALLIES AT TIEN-TSIN.

CHINESE PLENIPOTENTIARIES ENTERING THE ALLIED CAMP.

EVENTS follow each other in China too rapidly for us to do more than attempt to illustrate their history. We have no sooner become aware that the negotiations opened at Tien-Tsin were attended by no satisfactory result; that Chinese cunning could not bring itself to propose any honest and reliable conditions; that six of our countrymen, including Mr. Parkes, had been surprised and taken prisoners, than a swift telegraphic message conveys to us that Peking is in the hands of the allies, and that Mr. Parkes and Mr. Loch have been restored, while two of their companions are dead from ill-treatment, and two are missing. Our engraving represents the camp of the allies, under the wall of Tien-Tsin, a town which somewhat resembles Shanghai, being surrounded by thick and lofty walls, and intersected by fine broad streets. Tien-Tsin is, in fact, the storehouse for provisions for Peking, to which it leads by a very good road. It is built at the junction of the Imperial Canal, which discharges itself into the Peiho. The mandarins who paid a visit to the allies were first represented to be fully accredited from the Throne to conclude terms of a satisfactory nature; but it ultimately transpired that neither Kwei-Liang, the same who negotiated the Treaty of 1858, nor Hang-Pou, Viceroy of the Province of Tchi-Li, were willing, if even they were able, to come to the terms demanded by Baron Gros and Lord Elgin.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1860.

PERSIGNY AND THE PRESS.

M. PERSIGNY'S Circular to the Prefects on the liberty of the press has been characterised as candid to a fault. It certainly is candid, in parts; but if we were inclined to complain of merit carried to excess, we should rather take exception to the ingenuity of the document. When the Count sat down to write that circular he undertook one of the most delicate and difficult tasks that ever fell to the lot of a Minister. It was a venture worthy of the bold and wary head that sits on the shoulders of Louis Napoleon; and the manner in which the Count accomplished the work cannot fail of increasing the confidence of his master.

The plain business before him was to acquaint French journalists—the embodied popular opinion of the country—that he was inclined to “favour the acclimation of habits of free discussion”: a compliment to French intelligence which can only be appreciated under the supposition that at present the French journalist is too weak, too blind, too prejudiced to indulge those habits with safety to society. This may be true, or it may not; we know, at any rate, what the feeling of the French press must be on the subject, and the Minister must have been well convinced of the supremacy of individual power in France before he ventured to inflict so contemptuous a wound on the national self-love. The trick was, however, to lead up to it so cleverly that it should rather tickle than smart, and this the Count seems to have succeeded in. That preliminary essay of his on the English press was the means to this desirable and perhaps necessary end; and this is the sense which he conveys, apart from those compliments to England and English liberty which a Minister brought in to cultivate more cordial relations with our country may well be excused firing off: “You, journalists of France, long for the freedom of discussion accorded to the British press; that is your day-dream of liberty. My children, it is only a dream, I assure you. Freedom of the press in England! You have not the advantage of an acquaintance with the laws of that land of true liberty; consequently, you are ignorant of the fact that the English journalist works over a whole arsenal of penal enactments; that a lighted match is placed in the hands of the Government, by which at any moment it may blow him into Botany Bay. Compared with that, what is an *avertissement*?—a squib! a cracker affixed to the editorial coat-tails, with the simple aim of startling him back into the paths of propriety!” To do the Count justice, he does not stop here; but he completes an impression as to the liberty, or rather as to the trammels, of the press in England which he is far too ingenious to damage in the subsequent course of his essay. We ourselves must admit that serious restrictive enactments do exist, and the French mind is so uncommonly logical that anything we have to say about their actual idleness would go for nothing. It is so much to our comfort, however, that there is not one of them which could be put into effect without the concurrence of public opinion; and public opinion is the press itself. Count Persigny surely cannot have overlooked the fact that we govern the affairs of this country not by decree but by Parliamentary legislation; that this legislation proceeds from the people, and that the press leads, because it expounds, popular opinion. M. Persigny's most triumphant citation from our law-books is that “Act for Better Assuring the Crown and the Government” which, in 1848, was “added to the terrible arsenal of English legislation.” Had this measure been simply decreed by the Crown on its own mere motion, counting on the subservience of the magistracy and the army to enforce it, we might understand the importance which the French Minister affects to assign to it; whereas the fact is that such a decree would have driven the press into revolt and the Queen's advisers into banishment. That Act was the deliberate work of the people's representatives, backed by the press and the people themselves. Had it been opposed to public opinion or the press (they are strictly equivalent) it would speedily have had to “get itself repealed,” as Mr. Carlyle might say.

The truth is, however, that this phantom arsenal of British legislation is evoked simply to put French journalists on better terms with the régime under which they are to be acclimatised to habits of free discussion. It does not alarm us; it is sooth-

ing to our neighbours, perhaps, and therefore we will not quarrel with it. Nor can we contradict M. Persigny when he intimates that the immunity enjoyed by the English press from Imperial interference is due to its acceptance of the powers that be. We are content with them. All we insist on is free speech in the national councils. “That,” says M. Persigny, “the French press is also welcome to; but we will have no discussion about the legitimacy of the Imperial rule. Attack its policy or its administration as much as you please; but not a word of attack upon it will be tolerated. The condition on which you will be permitted to do the one thing is, that you abstain from the other.” This is fair enough. “Parties who propose to themselves not to have their ideas, their doctrines, and their sentiments accepted by the Government of the State, but to overthrow the State itself—to oppose to the Government such another Government, and to the dynasty another dynasty,” only provoke disorder without the security of any ultimate benefit, and they must expect to be put down. Given the opportunity of free discussion, they are bound, at any rate, to try first whether the Government will not accept the leave of their doctrines and sentiments; and this is what the French press is invited to do. It will accept the invitation, of course; but it evidently begins with small cheer. An irresponsible power still watches it with a severe, suspicious eye, and the liberty conferred by circular to-day may be withdrawn by *avertissement* to-morrow. Government by letters to Monsieur le Préfet is not calculated to win much confidence; and though French journalists are permitted to disport themselves at a greater length of tether, any moment they may find themselves at one end of the leash, and Count Persigny at the other.

In fact, without going so far as to doubt the sincerity of the Emperor and his new Minister, this much we may affirm, that no true liberty of the press or anything else can exist without the intervention of an honest, independent Legislature between it and the governing power. The Emperor permits no such intervention. He is disgusted with the Jubinal party, it seems, but he does not dissolve it. Free discussion may be tried in the press, but by no means in the Senate. The same journals which print M. Persigny's circular give us another of those precious epistles from the Préfet to the Maire enjoining him to elect that good man, the Government candidate, on pain of being considered a traitor and an incendiary. How is this? People will seek to explain such inconsistencies if they cannot control them; and we are afraid it will be said that while a troublesome journal, which comes under the rod of Order, may be disposed of without difficulty, it is not so easy to suppress a senator, sanctified as he is by the Napoleonic sacrament of the suffrage. Of all things, we advise the French press to discuss this matter a little, to begin with.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THERE WILL BE A CHAPTER OF THE GARTER at Windsor on the 17th inst., when the Duke of Newcastle will be elected one of the knights of that order.

THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH paid an unexpected visit to the British Museum on Saturday afternoon, and was conducted through the various apartments appropriated to the extensive collection of books by Mr. Panizzi, the principal librarian.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS has just completed his seventieth year.

IN NEW ZEALAND a large area of sand is said to exist which, when smelted, yields 66 per cent of pure steel. Half a dozen persons in London have subscribed the requisite capital to work a grant of the district which has been obtained.

A GRAND ARCHEOLOGICAL ART-EXHIBITION will soon be opened in Paris. The MARQUIS OF SALISBURY has been shot in the leg whilst rabbit-shooting. The injuries are not severe.

THE QUEEN has appointed Mr. J. McLean to be Lieutenant-Governor of British Kaffraria.

MESSRS. CLARKSON STANFIELD, R.A., and DAVID ROBERTS, R.A., in kindly remembrance of their old connection with the theatres as scene-painters, have announced their intention of building a house in the Royal Dramatic College, and adorning it with pictures from their pencils.

AN INVENTORY of all the Treasures of Art in the Paris Museums and Imperial Palaces is being made by order of the Emperor.

NEWS FOR ANY CRESCUS who loves and collects violins, or plays upon them:—Sporb's instrument, a Stradivarius, we are assured, almost unique in quality, is in the market.

THE FRENCH MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR has authorised the importation and sale of grouse, “a bird bred in Scotland,” and which is not to be found in France.

THE NEWCASTLE ELECTION has resulted in the return of the Liberal candidate, Mr. Beaumont, by a very large majority.

MR. DAVID OWEN, the geologist, died at New Harmony, Indiana, on the 13th ult. He was a son of the celebrated Robert Owen, of New Lanark, Scotland, and a brother of the Hon. Robert Dale Owen, late American Minister at Naples.

THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY have, it is said, decided on seeking from Parliament the means of carrying out the system of barracks for the Navy.

CHILSEA, aspiring to become a municipal and Parliamentary borough, has opened a new vestry-hall with a banquet. The hall has cost £7000.

A COMBINED EFFORT is to be made BY THE WINE TRADE to demonstrate the inexpediency of arranging the new duties on the principle of the alcoholic test. The French Government are said to feel much dissatisfaction at the proposed scale, which will interfere with the importation of wine in bottle.

LEVYING THE TAXES IN HUNGARY is found all but impossible. The goods and chattels of debtors to the State—nobles as well as plebeians—are day after day brought to the hammer, but no one in Hungary dares purchase property taken in execution.

THE LEADING CLERGY of the archdiocese of Coventry have forwarded a memorial to Lord Palmerston, urging the desirability of separating the county of Warwick from the diocese of Worcester.

M. DE ROTHSCHILD, of Paris, have given notice that they are now prepared to pay the interest of the Roman debt on application at their offices.

THE GRAND DUKE OF BADEN, by ordinance of the 4th, pardons all the persons who were condemned for high treason or rebellion in 1848 and 1849, and authorities such of them as are in foreign countries to return home.

LORD CLYDE was the guest of the Skinners' Company on Thursday week. In the afternoon he was made a citizen-skinner; in the evening he dined with his brother-skinners.

THE MASS OF THE POPULATION OF ROME is now suffering great privations, owing to the high price of bread. Expeditors of all kinds are being adopted by public and private charity to supply food for the poor.

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT in Stockholm continues to progress. Upwards of 7000 persons are already enrolled.

THE RUSSIAN COLONISATION OF THE COUNTRY ON THE AMOOR is advancing. 230 peasant families having been sent there during August.

THE BISHOPRIC OF WORCESTER has, we hear, been offered to and declined by Archbishop Law.

THE HEAVY RAINS which have lately fallen in Notts, Derbyshire, and Leicestershire, have caused the Rivers Trent and Soar to overflow their banks, and large tracts of land in the surrounding country are under water.

THE DAUGHTER OF THE RECTOR OF SOMERBY (Lincolnshire), the Rev. W. E. Chapman, was married on Thursday week. At the wedding breakfast several social toasts had been given and responded to, and while Mr. Chapman was saying a few words to the happy party in reply to the toast of his own health, he fell dead.

A NEW CHURCH at STANTONBURY was consecrated on the 6th instant. This edifice is chiefly designed for the benefit of the servants of the London and North-Western Railway Company employed at the Wolverton Works. The shareholders of the company have contributed £2500 towards its erection.

THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY at LIVERPOOL, opened on Monday week, has been crowded during the past week from ten in the morning to ten at night with at least 20,000 people.

THE BERLIN COMMISSION appointed to award the prize for the best drama of the last three years has declared that no drama will be crowned this time. The next period of three years will comprise the years 1858, 1859, and 1860. The prize is 1000 thalers in gold and a medal of the value of 100 thalers.

DURING MR. BRIGHT'S RECENT VISIT TO PARIS he and Mr. Cobden had an interview with the Emperor. Mr. Cobden is about to proceed to America and will return to England in time for the opening of the Parliament Session.

MR. STUART, THE AUSTRALIAN EXPLORER, and his companions, have been driven back by the natives, after having penetrated as far as latitude 19 and longitude 134. The country was found to be rich and fruitful.

THE WOLVERHAMPTON SCHOOL OF DESIGN, the closing of which was threatened for want of funds, has had a reprieve. It is to be carried on a while longer, at whose risk is not intimated.

SIR JOHN YOUNG, formerly Lord High Commissioner of the Indian Islands, is likely to succeed Sir William Denison as Governor of New South Wales.

THERE IS NO CHANCE OF MR. WHITWORTH'S GUN being used in France; it seems, the naval authorities having pronounced decidedly against it.

LORD PALMERSTON has consented to preside at a dinner to be given, on an early day after the meeting of Parliament, to Sir William Hayter.

THE CELEBRATED FRENCH DRAMATIST M. SCHREIBER has just retired from authorship on an income of more than £7000 a year, the fruit of his literary labours.

A VERDICT OF MANSLAUGHTER has been returned against Samuel Hindley, foreman platelayer at Leigh, for causing the death of Higgins, an engine-driver, by carelessness.

AN ATTEMPT was made to throw a train off the Cahir and Clonmel line on Thursday week, a large stone having been placed on the rails; the train had a very narrow escape.

MR. WILLIAMS has been elected Professor of Sanscrit at Oxford by a majority of 223 over Mr. Max Müller.

THE HUNGARIAN CLERGY have at length been prevailed upon to assume the national hat in lieu of the more clerical headdress hitherto worn. Imagine a venerable alcedon striding the streets in hussar jacket and wideawake!

THE PRINCE OF WALES has presented the sum of £100 to the Union Debating Society at Oxford University, of which he has been for the past year an honorary member; and his Royal Highness has also given a cup, value £100, to be shot for by the University Rifle Corps in the current year.

THE JOURNAL DE HAVRE describes the successful experiment of an Italian discovery in telegraphic translation, by which the handwriting is exactly copied by the electric fluid, and tracings, drawings, diagrams, &c., reproduced instantaneously at the usual stages of wire communication.

A DECREE OF THE PREFECT OF THE SEINE, dated the 29th ult., confirms to the ex-Queen of France and her Majesty's children and grandchildren the sum of 4,500,000*fr.* awarded by the decision of the jury for the part of the Parc de Monceaux appropriated for the formation of the Boulevard Malesherbes and its approaches.

THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH, we hear, finds twenty-five millions of francs insufficient to meet the great demands on his private purse. A proposal will be made to augment the Imperial income to forty millions.

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT is taking measures to repeople the Crimea.

THE THAMES has greatly overflowed its banks at Egham, the meadows being deep under water. Runnymede, consisting of about 160 acres, presents the appearance of a lake, and the lower road to the Royal borough of Windsor has been impassable for some time.

A PRISONER IN WALTON GATE, charged with housebreaking, was so severely burnt on Saturday night by her clothes having become ignited by the gaslight in her cell, that she expired early the following morning.

THE FEVER which is said to have broken out in the Isle of Wight has not appeared at Undercliff, we hear.

EXPORT MERCHANTS IN FRANCE complain that they had so few foreign orders to execute.

IN THE NEAPOLITAN PROVINCES there are 21 Archbishops, 60 Bishops, 3 Grand Abbots, a Grand Prior, an Archbishop of the Royal Church, and an Upper Chaplain. Very few have abandoned their dioceses. The offenders altogether do not amount to a fifth of the whole number.

MR. COBDEN has been invited to visit Newcastle, and attend a demonstration to be organised in his honour.

AT NAPLES, Signor Farini has received 40,000 applications for posts, high or low, under the Government. A hundred thousand applications had been previously made during the dictatorship of Garibaldi.

GREAT DISTRESS PREVAILS AMONGST THE SHOEMAKERS OF NORTHAMPTON, owing to the frauds and failures in the leather trade.

AN INKKEPER OF NEW BRUNSWICK (Canada) burned himself to death, a few weeks ago, by sitting on a burning pile of sticks.

THE “CONSCIENCE-MONEY” item to the Exchequer accounts in 1858-9 was only £3015; in 1857-8, £3522; and in 1856-7, £3982.

THE GAZETTE OF COLOGNE denies, but other continental papers affirm very positively, that Russia has moved a corps d'armée of 12,000 men to the frontiers of Hungary with a view to repression. Prince Alexander Gortschakoff's attitude in Moldo-Wallachia is put forward as the explanation of this step.

THE LORDS OF THE TREASURY have approved of Shill's as a port for the importation of wine in casks.

THE “ENFANS DE TROUPE” OF THE IMPERIAL GARD have received their muskets, which are elegant arms, weighing little more than five pounds.

THE SUBSCRIPTION for the relief of the suffering artisans of Coventry amounts already to about £2500. An appeal has been issued by the clergy on behalf of these unfortunates.

THE “GLOIRE.”—The semi-official *Moniteur de la Flotte* publishes the following rather remarkable letter from Toulon:—“The ship of the line *Algeiras* and the steel-plated frigate *Gloire* have returned to the roads after a cruise of two days, during which they steamed as far as Nice. The trial was most complete and highly satisfactory. The Admirals who commanded the ships entertained no doubt on the subject, but they wished to ascertain some points of detail. Trials of speed were made on various tacks, and with two, four, six, and eight boilers heated. The only defect discovered in the *Gloire* is that she cuts the waves with too great speed. The water enters by the portholes forward. It is said that this inconvenience will be avoided in the plans for the new plated frigates which are to be placed on the stocks next year. The guns are to be more out of the water. A new system of iron floating batteries is being examined. They are to be much smaller than those used in the Crimean War. They are not intended for going to sea, but solely for the protection of the entrance into ports and rivers. It is chiefly for this service that steel-plated frigates are constructed, as it is not considered safe to send them to sea alone. The general system of the defence of the coasts is to be completed by cutting down the old sailing-ships and plating them. The construction of ships of great speed has naturally directed the attention of the Government to the necessity of adopting greater precaution for the defence of the coasts of Brittany and Normandy. These coasts are now much exposed to the danger of a coup de main, which, though not probable, is at least possible. The coast of the Mediterranean appears to be better defended by nature, but we shall shortly have at our gates on that side a maritime power which may become troublesome. We are at present on the best terms with Italy, but that may not always be the case. Italy, moreover, is not the only Power in the Mediterranean, and, besides, we must protect the coast of Algeria, and secure our communication with Africa in all weathers. If all these exigencies are taken into consideration, it will be found that, notwithstanding the attention paid to the matériel of the Navy during late years, it is still *à-bow* what it ought to be.

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE AND THE QUEEN.—I hear that our Court thus proffered British hospitality to the Royal lady who visits our land on exchange of air, and, perhaps, for a little healthy distraction. She was asked whether she would come to Windsor for a few days, or whether she would merely run down and lunch. The alternative being thus distinctly tendered, what should the commonest sense of breeding do but accept the lesser bidding?—*Letter in the Daily News.*

STRANGE SERIES OF CASUALTIES.—The following strange series of casualties occurred to the ship *Mary Ellen* from Liverpool to L. Union. One man had been washed overboard and drowned off Cape Horn, and the master had disappeared whilst outside La Union. The mate then took charge and sailed for Libertad, but by mistake anchored off Concordia. He there attempted to land with three men and a boy, but the boat capsized, and all were drowned except the boy, who got to land, but could not return to the vessel. The two remaining men on board afterwards tried to get a boat, but also were drowned, thus leaving the vessel derelict. The mate of the *Dashing Wave* was put in command, and a foreign crew engaged to discharge the cargo and take care of the vessel, which remains at San José until orders arrive from the owners.

HOW TO PAY A TAX-COLLECTOR.—A Hungarian journal relates the following singular manner in which a taxpayer replied to an application made to him by a collector. Giving the official a blow with his hand, which crushed down his hat, he said, that is for the poll tax; another blow in the breast he called the land tax; a third, in the stomach, the tax on consumption; and finished with a general punnelling, which he designated the additional centimes.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

"We have taken Pekin." This was the exclamation of everybody on Saturday night; and all day on Sunday little was talked about but the taking of Pekin. It was, however, noticeable and significant that few seemed to be pleased with, and none exulted over, this remarkable event. "It is a good thing done, no doubt," said a military man to me, "but, after all, *qui bono*? What is to be the result? or, in Cobden's phrase, 'What next?' and next?" This seemed to be the feeling of men's minds, and these the questions, uttered or unexpressed, which occurred to them. "Perhaps we may have caught a Tartar, or find ourselves in the disagreeable position of the poor man who had an elephant given to him." "It is a grand thing, no doubt," said a military man to me, "to be in possession of Pekin; but what are we to do with it now we have got it?" In short, I am persuaded from all I hear that the uneasiness about this unfortunate war which was plainly observable during last Session amongst all parties—Whigs, Tories, and Radicals—is by no means allayed, but, on the contrary, increased; and I should not be surprised if it should gather head when Parliament meets, and lead to a Ministerial crisis, and perhaps to a dissolution. Indeed, if men always meant what they said, and were always ready to carry out their views, I should have no doubt of a stern fight upon this question, and hardly any of a victory on the side of the malcontents; but, having had some experience as to the value of club talk, and having often seen the most furious threats turn away and lose the name of action at the crack of the Government whip, I am obliged to take all this talk with a large discount. Still, we cannot tell. Sometimes the feelings are so strong as to overmaster all policy and irresolution. It was so in 1857, when Cobden introduced his resolution on the Lorch affair, and it may be so again. There is this difference, however, between 1857 and 1860, which is worthy of notice—in 1857 Lord John Russell and Gladstone were out of office; now they are members of the Government, and are already pledged to support the war. Of course, if Lord Palmerston were to be beaten, he would dissuade would rather be glad of an opportunity to do so, I fancy; for, be it remembered, that this is not his Parliament, but Lord Derby's. But would he be so successful in 1861 as he was in 1857? I think he would, for he is immensely popular, and, further, on questions of peace or war the people generally pronounce for war.

In Disraeli's "Coningsby" the author makes Silonia thus address the youthful hero of the novel:—"I resolved to go to St. Petersburg (touching a loan); I had an interview with the Russian Minister of Finance, Count Cancrin. I beheld the son of a Lithuanian Jew. The loan was connected with the affairs of Spain. I resolved on repairing to Spain from Russia. I travelled without intermission. I had an audience immediately on my arrival with the Spanish Minister, Sisonor Mendizabel: I beheld one, like myself, the son of a Nuovo Cristiano, a Jew of Arragon. In consequence of what transpired at Madrid I went straight to Paris, to consult with the President of the French Council: I beheld the son of a French Jew; a hero, an Imperial Marshall. "And is Saul a Hebrew?" said Coningsby. "Yes, and others of the French Marshals, and the most famous: Massena, for example; his real name was Manasseh. But, to my anecdote. It was agreed that some northern Powers should be applied to in a friendly and mediative capacity. We fixed on Prussia, and the President of the Council made an application to the Prussian Minister, who attended a few days after our conference. Count Arnim entered the Cabinet, and I beheld a Prussian Jew." Very startling this, no doubt; but not more so than Disraeli's own career. Let us supplement this passage in the same strain. It is Silonia that still speaks. "Years afterwards, in 1852, I had business connected with a loan in England. I got an appointment with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He entered the room punctual to his time; I beheld Disraeli, an Italian Jew, Nuovo Cristiano, but still a Jew; and only the other day, passing through a village in Buckinghamshire, on my way to Hugheuden Manor, the residence of this notable man, I heard that he was in the village at a public meeting; I put up my horse at the inn; I went to the Hall of Assembly; I found myself in a solemn meeting of the English Established Church, and in the orator who was discoursing to these venerable men upon their duties to their Church and exciting their applause, I saw again my Hebrew friend." This last incident I take to be more wonderful than any which Disraeli has himself related, and, indeed, the most remarkable incident in Mr. Disraeli's career—and at present I am at a loss to know precisely what it means. Some say that our great Caucasian is conscious that he has lost ground with the Church party—Lord Robert Cecil, Lord John Manners, not to mention Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Spooner, and others—and that he has taken this step to heal the breach. Others say it is restless ambition. For many years he has been leader of a great political party. He now means to gain further laurels in heading a forlorn hope in defence of church rates. However this may be, the position which Disraeli has assumed is a very strange one. "The old aristocracy are deserting you. Even the Bishops talk of compromise. But close your ranks; throw compromise to the winds; follow me, and I will lead you yet to victory." This is his language; and how cleverly did he put the whole question. I have heard or read most of Disraeli's speeches; but I do not remember anything more adroit and clever than this. And what will be the result of this move? Well, I think a more furious war than ever upon church rates. The Church party was already elated by its success in reducing the majority last year, and now that Disraeli has thrown himself into the struggle and tacitly assumed the leadership we may rely upon it that all thoughts of compromise will be abandoned. And, in direct warfare, I should not be surprised if the Church party were to be victorious next Session; but it must be remembered that this is a case of siege, and that there are many methods of taking a citadel besides that of assault—there is sapping and mining and blockading; and, though the Church party may get the victory in the House, every year their foes, by abolishing the impost in the towns, will draw their fires closer and closer, and, ultimately, there can be no doubt that the church-rate citadel will fall. But, meanwhile, Disraeli will achieve no small honour, and, in addition to the laurels he has reaped as a great political leader, will be honoured with a special wreath as defender of the Church, and after death may be held in reverence as a saint. *Sic dicat astræ.*

Since I last wrote Mr. Fawcett has retired from the Southwark contest. The battle has been fought between Mr. Layard and Mr. Stowell; and Mr. Layard has beaten his opponent by more than a two-thirds majority. According to the official return Layard polled 2,577, Stowell 837; majority for Layard, 1,740. Mr. Layard had the honour of having polled more than any candidate ever did before by a vote of a hundred votes. By the last return the number of electors in Southwark is 10,600. The total number of electors who polled on Tuesday was 7,919; leaving unpolled, 2,681. And as in a constituency like that of Southwark there must always be a large percentage of absentees and sick people, it is evident that the Conservatives must have voted, or that the number of Conservative in the borough is small. It is affirmed that Mr. Stowell has expended over £500, while Mr. Layard's costs will be under £1000; and, after having seen the scale on which the two committees carried on their operations, I should judge that this rough calculation is not far off the mark.

There is not much that is new at the Smithfield Show this year. There is about the same acreage of bovine, ovine, and porcine fat; the same marvellous bulbous roots; and little novelty in the machine department. I was, though, very much struck with the history of some wheat exhibited by Mr. Hallett, of Brighton. In 1857 he selected 2 ears of the largest wheat he could find. These 2 ears contained 87 grains. One of these grains produced next year 10 ears, containing 688 grains; one of these the next year produced 17 ears, containing 1,190 grains; and, in the following year, one of these produced 39 ears, containing 2,115 grains. The wheat originally was what is called "nursery wheat," but by this mode of "breeding," as Mr. Hallett calls it (that is, selecting the very best grain for sowing), the corn has changed its character. Those who have read Mr. Darwin's book will recognize here an illustration of his theory.

"THE FORGE."

PAINTED AND ENGRAVED BY JAMES SHARPLES.

It is always difficult to apply the ordinary rules of criticism to such works as have been etherealized without the conditions which are supposed to be necessary to success. The difficulty arises from the consideration that, though the work itself may be a marvellous specimen of ability when regarded as the production of a self-taught artist, who performed it under the disadvantages inseparable from want of regular instruction, and even inability to procure the necessary tools for its completion, it may be in itself only a crude specimen of natural talent, which induces us to wish that the genius of the man had been nurtured under more favourable circumstances. Looking at any work of art simply through its own merits, it is obvious that the difficulties through which it was produced should have no influence whatever upon our opinion; and, indeed, if those opinions are expressed with regard to the excellence of the performance only in relation to the means at the disposal of the artist, the object is at once removed from the catalogue of genuine criticism, and should be transferred to the list of curiosities. There are cases, however, where, by great natural genius joined to an almost incredible energy and perseverance, men have produced works which will bear comparison with—often surpass—those which are the result of favourable training, and a command of all the necessary working appliances. We are led to make these remarks from having lately received an engraving, just published, of a picture called "The Forge." Both picture and engraving, the latter being a reduced copy from the original painting, are the work of Mr. James Sharples, of Blackburn, a man who under embarrassing disadvantages, and, notwithstanding a life of daily toil as a blacksmith, has surmounted the difficulties which lay before him in the pursuit of the art he loved, and may already take a portion of which his fellow-townsmen, still more his fellow-workmen, may well be proud.

Born at Wakefield, and one of a family of thirteen children, James Sharples was placed out to work in an iron foundry at about ten years old, and afterwards was employed in the engine-shop, where his father was a smith, to heat rivets, and carry them to the boiler-makers.

Though this labour lasted from six in the morning till eight at night, his father contrived to teach him to read a little after hours, and at about the same time his artistic tastes seem to have received their first stimulus in his being employed to assist the foreman to design boiler-patterns on the workshop-floor. It would be impossible in our limits to follow the up-hill work of the quiet, determined boy. Mr. Sharples, in his "Self-help," has already recorded the history of his work. How he contrived to procure some pencils and paper to copy some lithographs; how, out of his small means, he managed to get a lesson a week from an amateur artist at the Mechanics' Institute; how, in short, he toiled on and on with one or two books and scant materials till he painted pictures that were sold for such sums as encouraged him to proceed, and at last obtain for some time a modest income as a painter of portraits. "His picture of 'The Forge' was painted while he was working at his trade of a blacksmith; and it is evident that his hand dwelt lovingly in the delineation of the various tools which form the accessories of the workshop; for the scene is not that of a mere village smithy; it is the forge where the stalwart men weld together pieces of giant machinery, and throughout the whole scene the truthfulness of all the details is preserved with an almost Pre-Raphaelite distinctness, while the balance and grouping of the picture is admirable.

The history of the Engraving is intensely interesting, since the artist undertook the task of rendering this painting on the plate without even knowing what were the necessary implements to be used, and, never having heard of the use of acids in the art, after making some of his own gravers, working on undauntedly through numberless difficulties, all overcome at last by his unalterable perseverance. Mr. Sharples has produced a picture which will stand the test of criticism, as it will merit the recognition of all those who discover in the genius of the handicraftsman and the worker one of our national glories.

MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCESS ALICE.

THE negotiations for the marriage of her Royal Highness Princess Alice with Prince Louis of Hesse Darmstadt, which have from time to time been informally mentioned in the newspapers, are now completed, and the wedding is to take place in the spring. The affectionate interest which the public take in all that concerns the happiness of the Royal family is in a very slight degree complicated in this instance with considerations of national policy. The little Rhenish Court of Hesse Darmstadt, at which we are represented by our Minister to the Germanic Confederation in his spare hours, is not one likely to draw us into wars; and if Prince Louis pleases the Queen and the young lady he may very well please us. Prince Louis sustains the same relation to the reigning Duke of Hesse Darmstadt as the husband of the Princess Royal to the King of Prussia. In each State the Sovereign is childless, and each of the two sisters will be the wife of the heir presumptive. Prince Louis will be twenty-four years of age next September. He has the rank of a captain in the Prussian service, and is titular Colonel of a Russian Hussar regiment. He is only distantly related to the Elector of Hesse-Cassel, who has just dissolved the Hessian Chambers, and who may have to join the Duke of Modena and the Grand Duke of Tuscany before he is much older.

THE KING OF HOLLAND IN DANGER.—The King of Holland incurred some danger three days back while going by special train from Amsterdam to Arnhem. Just on entering the station at the latter place the engine-driver perceived a carriage standing across the line. Being so near that it was impossible to stop, he had the presence of mind to put on full steam, and dashed the obstacle to splinters without the slightest loss to his own train. Neither the King nor any of his suite suffered the least injury.

THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.—Her Majesty's Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*, Captain the Hon. Joseph Denham, has returned from conveying her Majesty the Empress of Austria to Madeira. The health of the Empress appeared to improve as the yacht approached a warmer latitude. Much of her time was passed in one of the paddle-box aloft, attended by the Princess Windischgratz. The Empress presented Captain Denham with a magnificent snuff-box, set with diamonds, with the Emperor of Austria's portrait in the centre. Commander Christian and Dr. Minter, D.O., received each a massive ring, set richly in brilliants. To the crew of the yacht the Empress left the munificent sum of £300, for distribution among them.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.—Two or three somewhat remarkable religious services were held last Sunday. In the first place, Professor Maurice delivered a sermon before the members of the Working Men's Rifle Corps, in which he took the view that a citizen force was preferable to a standing army. Mr. Spurgeon, close for the subject of his discourse at Exeter Hall the late terrible colliery explosion in Wales, which took place in a locality which he had frequently visited. Lastly, the Surrey Theatre was the scene of a great revival meeting, Messrs. Weaver and Reddick officiating on the occasion.

THANKSGIVING DAY IN NEW YORK.—The Mayor of New York (Mr. Fernando Wood) complies with the request of the Governor of the State, and issues the formal order for a Thanksgiving Day, but intimates that there is nothing to be thankful for! The following are his words:—"Whilst, in my judgment, the country, either in its political, commercial, or financial aspect, presents no features for which we should be thankful, we are yet called upon by every consideration of self-respect to offer up to the Father of all mercies devout and fervent prayer for his interposition and protection from the impending evils which threaten our institutions and the material interests of the people."

POLITICAL SALONS IN PARIS.—"I mentioned some days ago," writes the Paris correspondent of the *Globe*, "that Princess Metternich (reim) I went on paying the part so long brilliantly enacted here by Princess Lieven in foreign affairs. She had a select party this week, the only guests being the Emperor, Lord Cowley, Mr. Cobden, and Prince Metternich, when the occasion of Venice became the theme of earnest discussion, and the Austrian Ambassador not only took part in the colloquy, but undertook to convey what was said to his Court. Napoleon III. has invited him to a fowling party in the woods of Rambouillet, it being his habit to discuss knotty points in a shooting-jacket. Another political salon is that of Madame de S. Florentin, where, on Thursday week, the Russian Envoy, Kesseloff, was asked to meet Metternich, the Emperor being also in attendance, and the same subject was broached."

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

A LARGE number of gentlemen belonging to the London Rifle Brigade met on Monday evening in the large room of the British Institution, Cooper-street, City-road, to witness an "assault of arms," promoted under the auspices of the officers of the brigade. Lieut.-Colonel Hicks occupied the chair, and there were present Major Alderman Rose, nearly all the officers, and a very large body of privates. Mr. Batty and Corporal Waite, of the 2nd Life Guards; Mr. Hughes, the boxing-master of the brigade, and Corporal-Major Shaw, and Corporal-Major Waite and Corporal Gregson, had several encounters with the single-stick, which were much admired for the rapidity with which the attacks and defences were made. The competitors with the foils were Professors Terren and Guillemard, Mr. Ryan, Capt. McLaughlan, of the London Rifle Brigade; Mr. Mitchell, of the Hon. Artillery Company; Capt. Chapman, Mr. Ginger, and Corporal-Major Shaw, all of whom acquitted themselves well; but particularly we must notice the passage of arms between Capt. Chapman and Mr. Ginger, which was most brilliant. Mr. Ryan then went through the club exercise, after which Messrs. Cuthbert and Hicks had a set-to with the gloves. Corporal-Major Shaw and Corporal Gregson then entered upon a most exciting encounter with the sword and bayonet. The practice was excellent, and, after a brilliant contest, which created great applause, Shaw, with the bayonet, was declared the victor.

The Metropolitan Volunteer Light Cavalry, raised by Lord Truro, having been sanctioned by the Crown, a crowded public meeting was held a few days since at Eccleston-hall, Pimlico, "for the purpose of forming a committee of enrolment and finance for the Kensington district, comprising Brompton, Fulham, Hammersmith, and Chelsea." Lord Truro presided.

The cup given by the Prince of Wales to be shot for by members of the Oxford University Rifle Corps has been gained by Mr. T. Leo Warner, scholar of Trinity College.

The members of the Aylsham (Norfolk) Company have had a competition for two prizes of £1 and £2 presented by Lieut. Ermain. The first prize was shot for at ranges of 100, 500, and 600 yards; and the second at 200, 300, and 400 yards—three shots each. The winners were Private Gay and Private Soame.

The Duke of Northumberland has placed Percy-square, North Shields, with two cottages, at the disposal of the 1st Northumberland Volunteers for purpose of drill. It is proposed to form a Cadet Corps, consisting of young lads of from about twelve to sixteen years of age, in connection with the 1st Northumberland Rifles. The corps will be one of Foot lancers, the lances being similar to those used by the cavalry, but only about six feet long.

The 2nd battalion of Surrey Volunteers were reviewed recently by Colonel Luard in Richmond Park. It was commanded by Sir Henry Fletcher, the Major Commandant, and consisted of the 6th (Essex), 9th (Richmond), 11th (Wimbledon), 12th (Kingston), 15th (Chertsey), and 16th (Egham) corps of Surrey Volunteers.

On Thursday week the remains of Mr. George Cartwright, late a member of the 73rd Lancashire Volunteer Rifle Corps, were committed to the grave with military honours. The corps, on mustering, proceeded to the house of the deceased, where they were joined by the relatives and friends, after which the mournful procession formed. The firing party (composed of a sergeant, corporal, and twelve men) led; then followed the band of the corps, playing the "Dead March" in "Saul," the coffin, with the cap, belt, &c., on the top. Following the coffin were the friends and a number of fellow-workmen. The close of the melancholy cortege was formed by the members of the 73rd L. V. R. The whole ceremony was of the most affecting character.

The members of the 1st Kent Rifle Volunteers assembled on Thursday week in the Mote Park (the seat of the Earl of Romney) to compete for prizes. The chief contest of the day was among the members of the first class, at 300 yards, five rounds each. There were twenty-two competitors in this match, and the firing was remarkably good, particularly that of Sergeant Hadow, who made ten points (winning the first prize, a silver cup given by the officers of the corps), Ensign Cuthbert, who made nine points, and Private Gordon, nine points. The firing off the tie for the second and third prizes created great interest. The former was eventually won by Ensign Cuthbert, who made two centres, his opponent scoring one centre and an outer. A silver cup (presented by Mr. Bunter, an honorary member) was afterwards competed for by the members of the second class, at 200 yards, and won by Sergeant Laker, who in five rounds made eight points. Several other prizes were also competed for, the firing generally being good.

The members of the Lincoln corps have had a competition for a cup, given by Mr. Daughy. The shooting, which extended over two days, was at ranges of 100 and 500 yards, five rounds each. Mr. Hughes made the highest number of points.

A competition has taken place between ten members of the Colchester corps for a Wilson's breach-loading rifle, valued at ten guineas. Captain Bishop, the commander of the corps, gained the prize.

The members of the 6th company of Westminsters competed in a shooting match at the butt of the 11th Surrey, at Wimbledon, on Monday last. The prizes, six in number, were subscribed for by the members of the 6th company, and averaged in value from about £3 to £12. The prizes, in proportion to points, were five, and the sixth was arranged to be given to the member, not being otherwise a winner, who should make the greatest number of hits, irrespective of points. There were thirty-nine competitors; five rounds were allowed to each competitor, at the ranges of 200, 300, 400, and 500 yards respectively. At the conclusion of the shooting of the twenty rounds the scores stood as follows:—Ensign Thoms, 24 points (1st prize); Sergeant Robert Montague and Private Edward Draper, each 22 points; Privates Moon and Redgrave, each 19 points; for the 6th prize, Captain Wood and Private Higgs, each 16 hits. The ties were then shot off at 300 yards in single shots, when Messrs. Draper and Moon were successful in their competition for the second and fourth prizes, their antagonists respectively taking the third and fifth. The sixth prize was won by Mr. Higgs. The prizes will not be given in money.

MR. COBDEN AND THE FRENCH TREATY.—At the meeting of the Huddersfield Chamber of Commerce on Monday the Secretary read the reply to a communication from the President of the Chamber to Mr. Cobden, conveying the thanks of the Chamber to the hon. gentleman for his services in connection with the French Treaty. Mr. Cobden said:—"All that England has done has been to carry out, in practice towards all the world, in respect to some remaining items of our tariffs, that principle of free trade which we have so loudly professed, at which we had previously applied to our important articles of production. If we have done this in the form of a treaty it was solely to enable the Emperor of the French, by a diplomatic act, and in accordance with the powers vested in him by the Constitution, to make some simultaneous reduction in the tariff of this country, and to have objected to this proceeding on the ground of form must have been a pedantry, and not principle. But, viewed on its own merits and apart from anything from the treaty itself, Mr. Cobden's conduct is a noble example, by which we are all instructed, and which we are all proud to follow. It is a free port for manure, as just as it was previously the import for wool, indigo, and other raw materials, and it will be followed by similar results. I have already heard of Canadian buyers who are anxious to pay annual visits to the Continent of Europe having intimated an intention of making all the future purchases in England, being convinced that under the present free-trade every article of Continental manufacture which can be produced cheaper and better than in England will be found in the warehouses of London and Manchester."

NEW MODE OF STEAM-PROPULSION.—An invention for propelling steam-vessels on a novel principle was tested on Tuesday on the Thames. The scheme consists in the employment of smooth discs instead of paddle-wheels. These may be of metal or wood, or may be compound, two or more being keyed on the same shaft. They are immersed some two feet, and, being driven at a high velocity, their friction in the water engenders force enough to propel the vessel. The tug on board which they were tried left Blackwall yesterday morning, and ran down to Eith at about six knots. Returning against tide, the boat accomplished a drive. The engines being constructed for paddles could not be made to fire more than forty-seven revolutions a minute, and the test is therefore unfair to the inventor. With multiplying gearing much better results could no doubt be obtained.

STATUE OF THE MARQUIS OF ANGLESEY.

EXTRAORDINARY ENGINEERING FEAT.

FEW who have passed through the Tubular Bridge across the Menai Straits will have failed to notice a well-proportioned column of grey marble, of the fluted Doric order, which almost overhangs the railway at the entrance of the tube on the Anglesea side of the straits.

This column was erected in 1816 by public subscription to commemorate the military achievements of the gallant soldier who commanded the cavalry and who was second in command of the British Army, at the battle of Waterloo.

The column itself, on account of its correct proportions as well as its admirable site, perched as it is on an elevated plateau of rock, visible for many miles in every direction, has justly been considered one of the sights of the far-famed Straits of Menai; it only wanted a statue of the hero to complete it.

The inhabitants of Anglesea and its neighbourhood determined, when their favourite and honoured Arglwydd, or Lord of Mona, was taken from them, to supply this want, and accordingly all, from the owners of broad acres to the labourers of the soil, threw in their mite, and speedily raised a sum of money which enabled them to give the commission to the eminent sculptor Matthew Noble, and it must be admitted that they have been justified in their selection, for the statue, which is of bronze, 12 ft. 4 in. high, in the full costume of the Hussar of the beginning of the century, is not only a striking likeness, both in face, figure, and mien, of the noble Marquis, but is likewise, as a work of art, one of the happiest efforts of that master.

The rock on which the column stands presents but an insufficient space for scaffolding, and great difficulties arose in consequence, which have been overcome by a bold and simple engineering manœuvre, for which the author deserves the highest credit, and the public will be the more interested in the originator of this novel method of avoiding the expense and inconvenience of the use of scaffolding from the circumstance of his untimely end, brought about by the anxiety attendant on the critical operation he undertook, and of which he lived not to see the success.

Mr. J. Haalam, a youth of about twenty-three years of age, a native of Anglesea, conceived the design which we will now describe, and which was most successfully executed on Saturday last.

Two balks of timber, about 70 feet long, were placed vertically at the foot of the column, and formed a sort of double mast, on which were placed what sailors term cap and cross-trees, to admit of a topmast which was hoisted up and secured between the two lower masts, the whole attaining a height of 120 feet, giving a clear 20 feet above the column itself. On the capital of the column a shorter mast was erected, and between these two masts a large pair of transverse beams was laid across, on which a small travelling-truck was placed; the whole were firmly bolted together and secured with several pairs of shrouds. The structure looked of so slender a nature that when the great mass, weighing 2½ tons, which was about to be lifted in mid-air to an elevation of 120 feet, was seen, every one felt considerable misgivings. The hoisting apparatus consisted of a large hawser carefully attached to the statue, and leading through rollers on the travelling-truck along the transverse beams, and down on the opposite side of the column, and attached to a heavy three-fold tackle, forming the principal purchase. Besides this, two other tackles, likewise attached to the traveller on the summit, and thence to the statue, were used as supports to the main hoisting-apparatus.

The statue commenced to move at exactly eleven o'clock, and rose majestically in the course of half an hour to the height of about seventy feet, when the main tackle suddenly twisted itself up so completely as to appear like a single rope. This was an awkward moment, and appeared to threaten a failure, but the sailors speedily climbed up the tackle and applied a lever to the upper block, and so untwisted the tackle, and the hoisting was resumed. The time occupied in this matter was one of no ordinary anxiety, for the statue began to vibrate rather unpleasantly. At one o'clock it reached the summit, and there remained only the operation of sliding it along the beams until it stood over its final resting-place. For this purpose it was necessary to rack the tackles, in order to liberate the statue from them during its lateral movement. The operation of racking caused a delay of about half an hour, when the ponderous weight was slid by means of the main purchase, checked by two tackles at the opposite end of the truck, until it was poised over the column; the preventer-tackles were then uncracked, and it was lowered into its place at half-past one, amid the cheers of the bystanders.



STATUE OF THE LATE MARQUIS OF ANGLESEY.
(MATTHEW NOBLE, SCULPTOR.)

THE GROSVENOR HOTEL, PIMLICO.

THIS hotel, now being rapidly erected on the site of the old Grosvenor Basin in Belgravia, forms an integral part of the new West-End Railway

Terminus, or Victoria Station—the most comprehensive plan yet devised for the relief of London traffic. Six lines of railway will in the course of a few months concentrate themselves upon this spot, diverting from London-bridge and its choked approaches perhaps one-half the railway-travelling public, and creating a grand western centre immediately under the walls of Buckingham Palace. The multitudes of visitors bound west of Temple-bar to all the region of the parks and squares, Belgravia, Pimlico, and Westminster, will radiate hence directly to their destinations, avoiding altogether the tedious and perilous passes of the City. The Brighton, South-Eastern, Chatham and Dover, and Crystal Palace lines will bring in the circulation from the Continent, the south of England, and all the southern suburbs; while the Great Western and North-Western Railways will draw from the rest of the empire, and even—via Liverpool and Milford Haven—from America. As a sieve to the enormous traffic, the Grosvenor Hotel is being placed at its embouchure. It occupies an area of 300 feet long by 50 feet wide, and will contain three open courts, ten staircases, and upwards of 500 apartments—halls, corridors, lobbies, and closets. Of these more than 200 are bedrooms and dressing-rooms, 50 are public rooms and rooms for the service of the hotel, 20 are private dining and drawing rooms, and 120 are bathrooms, washing-rooms, and closets.

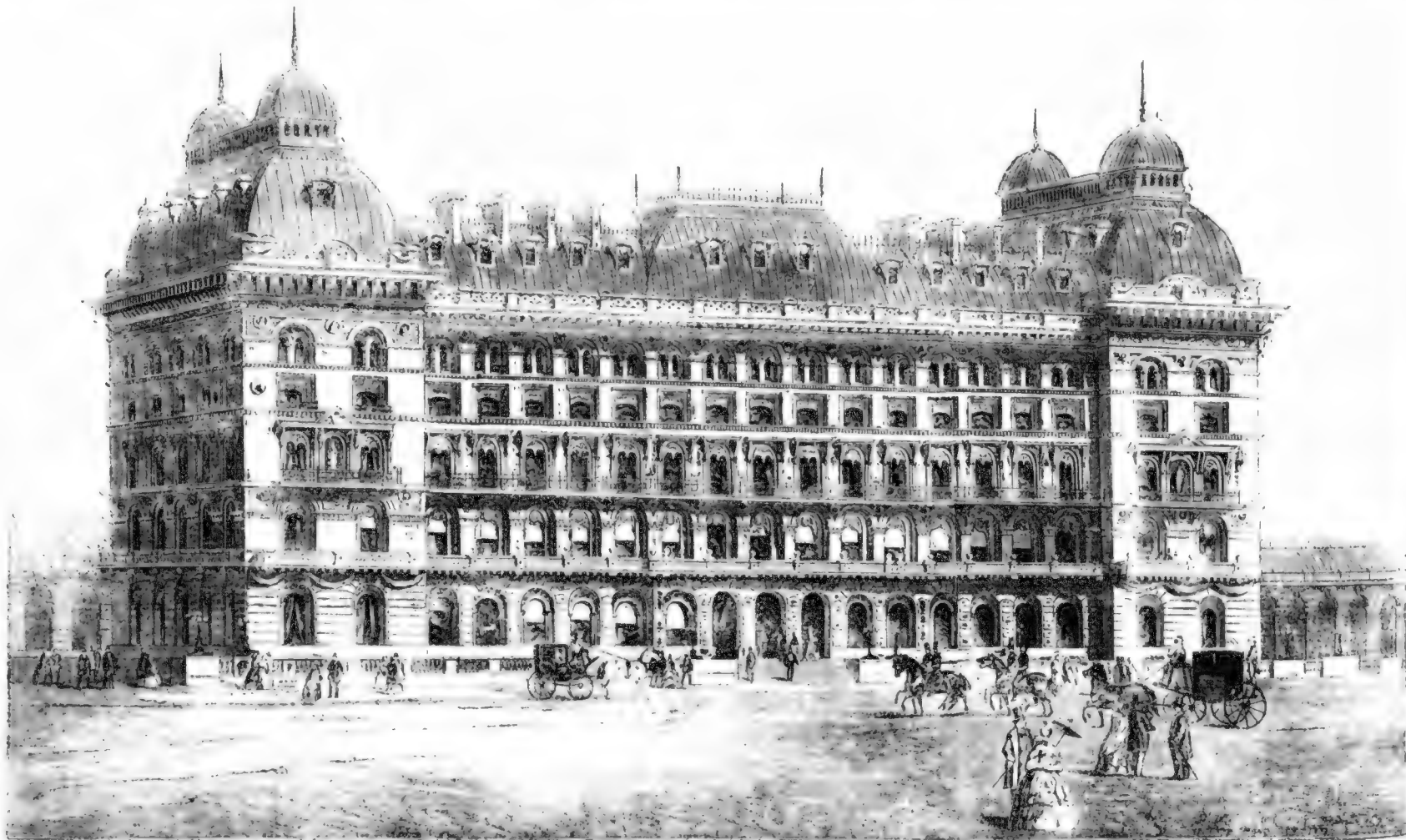
The foundations of the building are sunk through a series of quick-sands, mudbanks, and old peat-bogs, to the solid mass of the London clay. The excavations throw an interesting light on the primal geography of the Thames at this point of its course, but yielded no objects of archaeological interest.

The height of the building will be upwards of 100 feet from the pavement, but a lifting-room adjoining the staircases will diminish this internally to zero, and suggest to the sufferers from Parisian *troisèmes* a possible mode of uniting moderate room-rent with comfort, which cannot easily be much longer lost sight of in hotels abroad or at home. The architecture of the building externally is almost entirely of stone and white brick, and, as regards design and character, will shortly speak for itself more clearly than drawings can speak for it. Our Engraving is taken from a large perspective view in the exhibition of the Royal Academy, and, from its reduced size, necessarily omits much decorative detail.

The building is to be completed in the autumn of next year. The architect is Mr. Knowles, of Gray's Inn, and the contractor Mr. Kell, of South-street, Grosvenor-square.

THE BRONZE COINAGE.

THE advantages which will accrue to the public from the introduction of the new money form a consideration of much more practical importance than pedantic quibblings about the second "t" in "Britt," and to these we may turn. The first in order of these advantages is assuredly the diminished size of the bronze pieces as compared with the copper money soon to become extinct. Every person must, at some time or other, have experienced the inconvenience of having "a pocket full of coppers." Heavy, unwholesome, and unsavoury as the old copper coins were, they were after all but tokens of value, and there was no compensating good, therefore, for the nuisance of carrying them about one. The new bronze coinage constitutes an extension of the token system, and whereas the old coins were intrinsically of only half their nominal value, their bronze successors are intrinsically worth but one-fourth their nominal and negotiable value. In two directions the public thus benefit by the reform. The cost of manufacture will be lessened, and the Mint will require a smaller annual sum at the hands of her Majesty's faithful Commons for carrying on the coinage than has heretofore been asked for and obtained. In short, the remodelling of the copper coinage will pay for itself, and leave a handsome margin of profit to be handed over to the public account. The copper coins at present in circulation equal in weight, in round numbers, 6000 tons, and in number five hundred millions. An equal weight of bronze metal will, by the present division of the lb. weight into 48, 80, and 160 pence, half-pence, and farthings respectively, yield something approaching ten hundred million pieces of money, or double the number of pieces, of double the negotiable value, from the same weight of metal as was used for the copper coinage. The economy of the new arrangement is therefore as apparent as its convenience, and it will be a matter for gratulation when it is fully accomplished. Another improvement visible in the bronze coinage is comprised in its having the current value of each individual coin imprinted on the reverse side. It should not be necessary for any person to have to inquire the worth of a coin. The coin itself should give testimony thereto. Of the durability of the



THE GROSVENOR HOTEL, PIMLICO.

bronze no one who has witnessed the processes of converting it into coin at her Majesty's Mint can have the smallest doubt. Although the mixture consists of 95 parts of copper, 4 parts of tin, and one part of zinc, yet it is of so obstinate a character as to frequently split into fragments in the course of rolling, and to require frequent and long annealings before it will receive perfect impressions from the dies. The compression between these latter in the act of striking hardens the discs of metal in such a way as to make them, in comparison with pure copper money, everlasting. They may indeed be termed unwearable coins. It is certain that their appearance will rather improve than deteriorate by age, and very soon oxidation will affect those parts of their surfaces which do not come into rubbing contact with table and counter in such a way as to form an agreeable contrast to those parts which are exposed to abrasion, and thus give the coins the appearance of antique bronze castings.

THE HAMILTON WINDOW, GLASGOW CATHEDRAL.

The window which his Grace the Duke of Hamilton presented in the past spring to the Cathedral at Glasgow is one of the most beautiful ornaments which has decorated any church in modern times. The original cartoons from which the window is executed were designed and painted by the eminent Heinrich von Hess, President of the Royal Academy of Munich; while the ornamentation was confided to Maximilian Aimmiller, Chief Inspector of the Munich factory. The window itself is divided into six panels or compartments, in which are represented the figures of Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Malachi, and John the Baptist.

The smaller compartments contain the armorial bearings of the families of Chateaufort, Angus, Douglas, and Arran, as well as those of the present Duke and his Duchess, the Princess Marie of Baden, all drawn by Mr. Laing, of Edinburgh, under the superintendence of Cosmo Innes, Esq. The general superintendence was intrusted to Mr. Charles Heath, of Glasgow, while the erection of the work was completed by Mr. David Keir. The Duke of Hamilton's long connection with a foreign Court, while it has enabled him to present his townsmen with a worthy memorial of his regard, does not seem to have obliterated from his memory all sympathy with the good old city. We hear that the erection of a series of similar windows is already in contemplation.

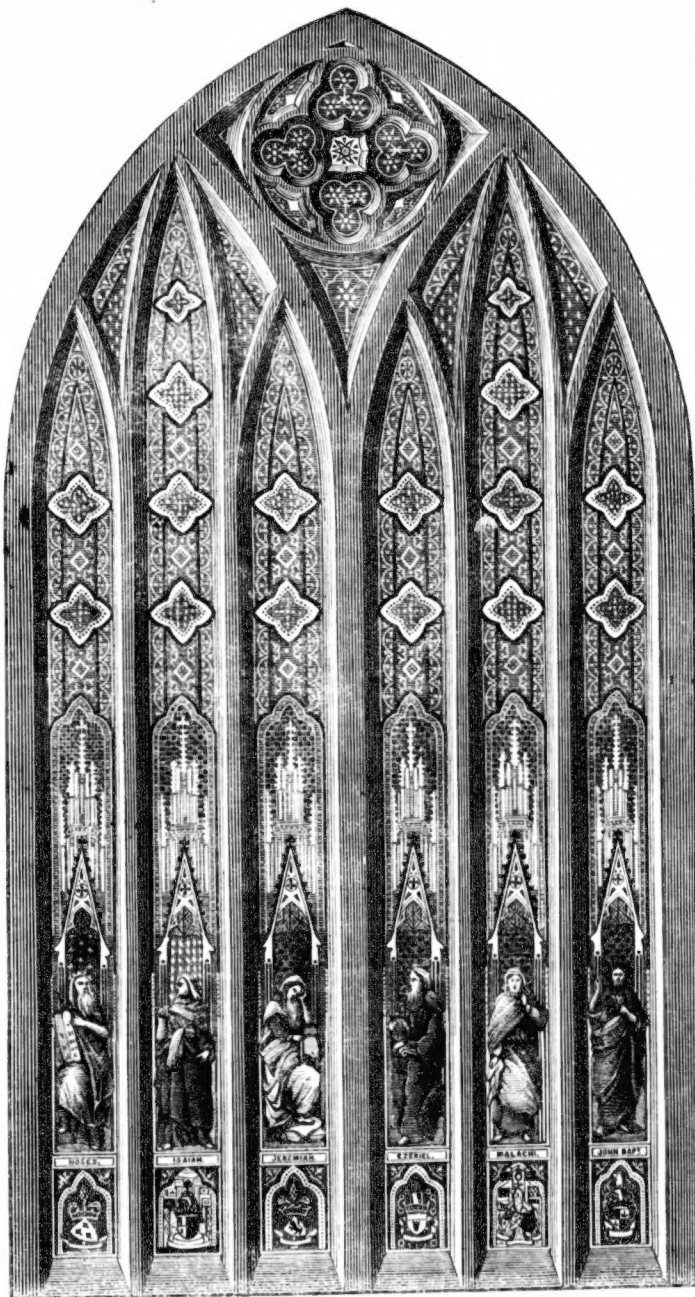
SPOT WHERE MONTGOMERY FELL.

The interesting events which accompanied the journey of the Prince of Wales through the British possessions of North America have already passed out of public comment, although it will be long before they cease to exercise a powerful influence upon thousands of the subjects of our Queen.

The Engraving which we publish is one of the last of the reminiscences of the journey which we have received from the artists who contributed to our pages on the subject, and its very simplicity may commend it to our readers. It is a touching memorial of an event which, although it has received no record beyond a plain inscription, seems to indicate that it is already regarded as part of the history of a people who need do no more than point to the words written over that small spot of ground to ensure reverence, and respect to the memory of the man whose name appears there. In 1775, during the American Revolutionary war, Generals Montgomery and Arnold attempted to carry Quebec by assault on the night of the 31st of December. They were repulsed, and Montgomery fell.

THE CELESTIAL CAPITAL.

PEKIN, or Peking, the capital of China, now in possession of British troops, stands on a great sandy plain between the Peiho and one of his affluents, about a hundred miles from



STAINED GLASS WINDOW PRESENTED TO GLASGOW CATHEDRAL BY THE DUK OF HAMILTON.

the mouth of the Peiho, and sixty miles south of the Great Wall which divides China Proper from Mongolia or Chinese Tartary, where the Emperor is said to have sought refuge. The latitude of the Pekin observatory is 39°54'13" N., and its longitude 116°28'54" E. Though, after London, Pekin is the largest city in the world, having a population generally estimated at 2,000,000, very little, indeed, is known of it by Europeans, and statements as to its size and population must, therefore, be accepted merely as approximations to the truth. The statements as to the extent of the city are very various, but the best authenticated make it from twenty-five to twenty-eight miles in circumference. It is composed of two contiguous cities, and is enclosed by walls about thirty feet high, with a breadth at the base of twenty-five feet, sloping to half that thickness at the top. Square towers flank the walls at the distance of every sixty or seventy yards, and the sixteen gates by which the walls are pierced are each surmounted by a watch tower, nine storeys high, every storey being pierced for cannon.

The most northerly portion of the city, called the Tartar or Imperial city, is in the form of an oblong square. In the centre of this part is the palace of the Emperor and Empress. It is surrounded by high walls, about two miles in circumference, which are also flanked with towers, and faced with tiles of a yellowish hue. The form of this inner inclosure, called "The Forbidden City," is a kind of square, and on each side of the wall there is a tower-surmounted gate. One of these gates, called the Meridian Gate, is reserved for the passage of the Emperor alone, and is by far the most magnificent of the approaches to the Palace. Here the Emperor shows himself on occasions when he dispenses mercy to offenders, when he distributes presents to foreign Ambassadors, or scans the prisoners captured in war. At another gate—a fine structure of white marble—he receives ceremonial visits from his Court officers. The Emperor's private retreat, which is named "The Tranquil Palace of Heaven," none can approach without special permission. The great officers of State assemble here for Cabinet consultation, and here candidates for office receive their appointments. The walks leading up to the chief halls are paved with slabs of grey and white stone. Beyond the Palace of the Empress, which is also an extensive building, is the Imperial flower-garden, laid out in beautiful walks, interspersed with lake, canal, and fountain, and with numerous shady groves, temples, and pavilions. These palaces, however, do not by any means answer to European ideas of a palace. "The buildings," says Sir John Barrow, one of the very few Europeans who can bear testimony from personal observation, "that compose the palace, and the furniture within them, if we except the paint, the gilding, and the varnish that appear on the houses even of plebeians, are equally void of unnecessary and expensive ornament. These buildings, like the common habitations of the country, are all modelled after the form of a tent, and are magnificent only by a comparison with the others, and by their number, which is sufficient, indeed, to form a town of themselves. Their walls are higher than those of ordinary houses, their wooden columns of greater diameter, their roofs are immense, and a greater variety of painting and gilding may be bestowed on the different parts; but none of them exceeds one story in height. The stone and clay floors are indeed sometimes covered with a carpet of English broadcloth, and the walls papered; but they have no glass in the windows, no stoves, fireplaces, or firegrates in the rooms; no sofa, bureau, chandeliers, nor looking-glasses; no bookcases, prints, nor paintings. They have neither curtains nor sheets to their beds. A bench of wood or a platform of brickwork is raised in an alcove, on which are mats or stuffed mattresses, hard pillows, or cushions, according to the season of the year. Instead of doors, they have usually screens made of fibres of the bamboo." Outside this inclosure is what is named the "August City," which is



THE SPOT WHERE GENERAL MONTGOMERY FELL.

about six miles in circumference, and surrounded by walls of about 20 feet in height. Here are the public granaries, the military depots, idol temples, &c. In the outer city are the chief tribunals of the empire, the National College of China, in which the whole literary activities of the kingdom are concentrated, besides various other educational institutions, an observatory, the buildings of the Russian Embassy, and the largest and most sacred Chinese temple in the city. It seems singular that foreigners should be permitted to dwell almost within the very precincts of the holiest place; but the Chinese have a supreme indifference about religious matters, and are quite ready to extol any form of religion. In the southern division of the city is concentrated all the trade.

The principal streets in Peking are very wide—from 120 to 200 feet—are perfectly straight, and of great length, running from one gate to another. They are without pavement, and are as dusty and disagreeable in hot weather as they are dirty in wet. The streets branching from the main ones are narrow and dark—mere lanes in fact. The houses are usually built of brick, and are covered with tiles, and for the most part are as inconvenient as they are devoid of taste and beauty. The appearance of the city is as monotonous as a military camp. The suburbs of Peking, as in the case of most Chinese towns, are extensive, some of them extending more than a mile beyond the walls. There are no lights on the streets at night, and what is more strange in connection with such a vast city, there are no sewers, the dirt and refuse of every house being carefully preserved, to be sold as manure. This filth is carted away in small-boxed carts to the gardens in the vicinity of the city. But though there is no filth visible in the streets, the smell arising from this plan is very disgusting, and is only in part sweetened by the use of perfumes and the burning of strongly-scented woods. Peking is connected with the Peiho by canal, by means of which it has a great traffic. About ten miles from Peking there is a large park belonging to the Emperor, in which there are several palaces. The northern part of Peking was built or restored by Kublai Khan, and it was made the capital in 1421 by the third Emperor of the Ming dynasty, Nankin having been the metropolis prior to that time.

OPERA, CONCERTS, AND NEW MUSIC.

MR. BALFE'S new opera is a great success. It is the most ambitious, and, in many respects, the best work he has produced. It is more dramatic, and written more of a piece (so to speak) than any of his other operas, and accordingly depends very little upon those ballads which constituted the chief, if not the sole attraction, in many of his earlier productions for the stage. The libretto, which is far better than the general run of libretti, and actually contains readable as well as singable verses, is by Mr. Palgrave Simpson, and is founded on Monk Lewis's well-known tale of "The Bravo of Venice," which was adapted for the stage many years ago as a melodrama under the title of "Rugantino." The first scene of the opera represents the cathedral square of Milan (why Milan instead of Venice it would perhaps be difficult to say), with groups of penitents kneeling on the steps of the Duomo and in the open space in front of that celebrated building. After a solemn chorus in the religious style (unaccompanied, and introduced by the organ) a herald (Mr. Dixon) appears with a proclamation setting forth the robberies and "artful murders" that have been committed by the notorious bravo Fortespada (Mr. W. Harrison), and offering a liberal reward for his apprehension. Beppo (Mr. St. Albyn), a member of the Duke of Milan's household, relates a legend about the terrible bravo, interrupted occasionally by exclamations of terror from the crowd. The next piece is a chorus of monks who appear at the gate of the cathedral and desire the crowd to disperse, in order that the Duke and his daughter may enter to say their evening prayers. In the second scene we find Count Malespina (Mr. Henry Wharton), Montalto (Mr. Wallworth), Memmino (Mr. H. Corri), Contarini (Mr. Lyall), Michele (a ruffian in the service of the Duke of Milan (Mr. Alberto Lawrence) and his daughter, Bianca (Miss Louise Pynce). Suddenly Fortespada appears in the midst of the party, and expresses his willingness to join the conspirators, but only on condition of becoming their leader. This offer, which, if accompanied by moderate stipulations, would have been joyfully accepted (for the services of an unscrupulous murderer were much needed by the band) is, under the circumstances, rejected; and one brave conspirator is on the point of assassinating the assassin, when Fortespada coolly informs them that he knows their plans; that a certain scroll lying on his table contains a full account of them; and that unless he returns in half an hour to his home this scroll will fall into the hands of the Duke. Fortespada is then elected chief of the gang. He obtains the names of his associates, takes an oath to annihilate the oppressors of Milan, drinks a bumper to the success of the enterprise, and overhears Michele promise to assassinate Bianca as she returns from the cathedral. Of course Fortespada, being a first tenor, does not drink without singing, and his bacchanalian air—"Glorious wine," &c., is one of the best things in the first act, and, indeed, in the entire opera.

The second act opens in one of the aisles of Milan Cathedral. It is night; and Bianca, having finished her devotions, is about to depart, when she is confronted by Malespina, who, we should have mentioned, loves her with that melodramatic sort of love which turns very speedily into hatred, and which means either one or the other, according to circumstances. At the end of a vigorously-written duet (in the style of Verdi) between Malespina and the object of his double-edged passion it means detestation, and whom Malespina detects he would destroy. Michele is in waiting, ready to strike the fatal blow, but he has no sooner raised his hand to administer it than a mysterious mendicant appears, and, turning the "lethal weapon" (as a lawyer would say) against the assassin's own breast, perforates it so effectually that the miscreant drops down dead without even having time to sing. It is Fortespada who has saved Bianca's life, and on the strength of that performance he at once claims her for his bride, at the same time informing her candidly that he is no other than the notorious bravo. Bianca calls for help, having apparently as bad an opinion of Fortespada as of the late Michele himself. Upon this the bravo disappears for an instant behind a column, and comes forth again attired as a monk. Bianca recognises him, but not so those who have come to her assistance; and the young girl has naturally not the heart to compromise her deliverer by mentioning his name.

The first scene of the third act shows us Beppo and Zeffrina (Miss Thirlwall), one of the ladies of the Court, practising a gavotte and other dances for a grand ball which the Duke of Milan is about to give in honour of the Duke of Ferrara, an accepted candidate for Bianca's hand. This scene is full of light and sparkling music, such as the composer of "Geraldine, or the Lover's Will," and of the "Four Sons of Aymon," knows how to write as well as any one. These dance tunes, in Mr. Balfé's best-known and also his very best style, contrast in a remarkable manner with the Verdi, and, therefore, emphatic music of nearly the whole of the two first acts, in which many of the phrases, as well as the general forms of the melodies, recall the composer of "Ernani" and the "Trovatore," while his influence is equally noticeable in the construction of the concerted pieces and finales. The first ballad in the opera of the kind especially associated with the name of Balfé is Bianca's air "In vain I strove to teach my heart," in which the daughter of the Duke of Milan expresses her unwillingness to accept the bridegroom provided for her in the person of the Duke of Ferrara. This is one of the freshest and most spontaneous melodies Mr. Balfé has ever written. The second scene in this act contains a recitative and air for the Duke, a very beautiful duet for the Duke and Bianca (who has at length become enamoured of the Bravo), a loud and impressive solo (which reminds every one of "The Fair Land of Poland") for Fortespada, consequent on the hand of Bianca being refused to him by her respectable father, and an admirable concerted piece, "Oh! night of

In the fourth act it appears that Fortespada, too supposed bravo, is a nobleman in disguise who, for State and other purposes, has thought fit to assume the costume in which we have hitherto seen him; in

short, he is the very Duke of Ferrara to whom Bianca has been betrothed by her father; the plot has been frustrated, the guilty punished, and it now only remains to reward the innocent. Bianca becomes the "Bravo's Bride"—that is to say, she marries the Duke—and, before we lose sight of her, sings a very charming rondo finale. The other most remarkable pieces in this act are an excellent scena for Bianca ("Yes, I shall see him once again"), a ballad for Fortespada ("Once more upon the path of life") and a very brilliant and effective galop.

"The Bravo's Bride" is put upon the stage magnificently, and with great good taste, and the execution of all concerned in its representation deserves high praise. Miss Pynce, Mr. Harrison, a whole army of barytones and basses, Mr. Balfé, and, finally, Mr. Alfred Mellon, the able musical conductor, were called for on the opening night, and "The Bravo's Bride" will now, probably, be played every evening for many weeks to come. At an early opportunity we shall speak of it again, and shall then enter with greater detail into the performances of the singers.

At the next of the Monday Popular Concerts (St. James's Hall), Miss Arabella Goddard will make her first appearance for the winter season in London.

STRANGE MURDER IN PARIS.

M. POINSON, President of the Fourth Chamber of the Court of Cassation, was returning from Champagne, where he had extensive estates, and took the railway at night at Troyes, getting into an empty compartment of a first-class carriage. A person unknown entered the same division at a station a little nearer Paris, and quitted the train before it reached the terminus. Here, when an officer opened the door of the carriage, to collect the tickets of the passengers, M. Poinson was found lying on the floor in a pool of blood. He had been murdered by stabs from a knife or poniard, and it is supposed that the crime was committed when he was asleep. His watch and purse were missing, and also, it is believed, a sum of money which he had collected of his tenants at his property at Chaource. It is either known or surmised—which is not clear—that the murderer got out of the train before its arrival at Noisy, where it is not stopped, but merely slackened in speed, in order to allow the postbags to be taken in. A lady who was in an adjoining department says she heard something like a cry just before the train neared the last-named station. When the sad news reached the court of which M. Poinson was president it was immediately closed. Such a frightful crime could not have been committed in the Belgian or German trains, where the carriages all communicate one with the other, as the murderer would hardly calculate upon remaining any time alone in the compartment with his victim. As the murder was perpetrated in a first-class carriage it seems probable that the robbery was planned beforehand.

GARIBOLDI ON THE IRISH BRIGADE.—The following letter has been received from General Garibaldi by an Irish gentleman who wrote to explain that it was Popeny, and not Ireland, which sent a band of misguided youths to uphold slavery in Italy:—"Much-esteemed Sir,—Who could ever think that your fellow-countrymen were not decided when they served the cause of the Pope under Lamoricière! Every one in Italy knows the heavy burden of oppression under which your country as well as ours is still groaning. The offspring of ignorance and imposition—Papacy—dwells unfortunately in the powerful with hypocrisy, and in the poor with the concomitant evils, prostitution, degradation, and misery. Albion became great and prosperous when she courageously cut off that cancer. Rome! she ceased to be great, she continued to be prostrate, and still lies in that filthy sink, because the Almighty was pleased to visit the queen of the world with that scourge. We pity the deceived ones of Ireland, as well as those of Italy and other countries; but we know, indeed, that the hearts of the millions in your noble country, as well as all over the globe, beat for the liberty of nations. We know too well that, if 400 deceived youths were compelled to take service under the most despicable Government, it was not with the consent of the brave and generous Irish nation, with whom we are united in bonds of brotherhood by a community of misfortune, and by the same foe still frowning on us. The time is not far distant when this people will inflict the last blow to its sacrificers and tyrants. In that solemn combat we shall decide, not only on our national existence, but the foundation will be laid for the rising of kindred nations; then the Italians, together with Hungarians, English, and other brothers, will joyfully and gratefully see the sons of Ireland whom you shall lead to the holy banquet."

THE "WHITE JACKET."—The *Cork Southern Reporter* has the following story:—"The White Jacket," a ship laden with salt, and bound for Calcutta, belonging to a large firm in Liverpool, put into our harbour about a fortnight since under the following circumstances:—The captain, it seems, remonstrated with the owners on the putting on board some 200 tons more salt than he considered the ship would be safe in taking; but his appeal was only laughed at, and he was offered the alternative of either proceeding on the voyage or resign. He then consented to sail. The ship was not long at sea when it became apparent to all on board that she would never make her voyage, freighted as she was. With some difficulty she made our harbour; and the owners, having been written to, sent over a person to represent them, with instructions that the vessel should be sent to sea again as she was. The captain declined to go in her, and the sailors, having some regard for their lives, also refused to proceed; and now comes the working of the new Mercantile Marine Act. A new captain is sent on board, who swears the ship is seaworthy and not overloaded, whereupon the men are arrested and lodged in goal for mutiny. The magistrates, having no power to adjudicate on the seaworthiness of the ship, wisely use their discretion and common sense, and refuse to punish the men or order them to proceed in what they consider a sinking ship; and that there was danger of her sinking the sequel will show. A fresh crew having been got on board, the ship again proceeded on her voyage, and, after being out more than a week, escaped becoming a total wreck by the mere chance of change of weather, when she was again able to make Queenstown, where she now lies, getting out into lights the 200 tons overload her first captain protested against, and for which he lost his employment and the sailors were incarcerated, and, but for the consideration of the Bench, might now be breaking stones in our county goal as a punishment for not risking their lives."

SCHOOLS FOR DESTITUTE CHILDREN.—It is proposed to hold in the town of Birmingham, on the 23rd of January, a conference on the measures to be taken for the relief of children who are not yet either criminals or paupers, but whose natural guardians will not or cannot provide for their education. It is the object of the conference to lay before the Executive Government and the Legislature the imperative duty of its providing education for this portion of the community.

AGITATION IN POLAND.—A letter from Warsaw in the *Brecon Gazette* says:—"On the 29th ult., the anniversary of the Polish Revolution, several persons had ordered a funeral service to be performed in the Carmelite church of Warsaw. Everything passed off quietly till the close, when the persons present struck up a hymn in favour of the deliverance of their country and against its oppressors. The officiating clergyman vainly requested the parties to stop, and the organist ceased playing, but one of the persons present took his place and accompanied the singing. The same parties intended to meet again in the evening, but when they reached the church it was closed. They then illuminated the statue of the saint at the church door, and an immense crowd collected. The same hymn was then repeated, some persons kneeling to sing it. The crowd afterwards quietly dispersed, singing as they went a song of which the burden was 'Poland is not yet lost!' There was no interference on the part of the police."

POKE-SETTING BY THE SPIRITS.—A number of a journal, called the *Herald of Progress*, published at New York, lies before us, filled with extravagances which make burlesque reason and science. In the department headed "The Spirits' Mysteries," we read "A Great Modern Miracle." A gentleman, whose name and address are given, had suffered from infancy with disease of the right hip; the right leg was shorter of the two by two inches and five-eighths, and "withered away so as to be not more than half the size of the left one." Lately his hip became more painful, and he determined to seek medical advice; but, thinking over the danger of any operation, he became "impressed that he could and would be healed, but how or when, he received no intimation." He went to bed, dreamed two men were operating on his hip, and when he awoke he found that his right leg had been made as long as his left, that it was useful to him, and that he "was now relieved from the necessity of lifting his limb with his hands." But soon the difficulties arising from this marvellous cure of the spirits commenced. It was necessary that he should clothe himself, but on putting on his pants he found the right leg of his garment too short for him. The power which had lengthened the leg had stopped short of lengthening the trousers, and had taken away the doctor's work only to find the tailor in employment. Then the deep-heel boot was out of place; it made the right leg now two inches and five-eighths longer than its neighbour. These difficulties were overcome, and the patient has since many employed his time in jumping down flights of stairs and off high board fences. The case, it is stated, "has made quite a stir."

LAW AND CRIME.

At the eve of the great Christian festival the shadow of the gibbet falls upon the land. The miserable prisoner Ann Padfield, who was to have been executed in London by the law on the morning before Christmas Day, has, through the medium of Home Office "mercy," received a commutation of her sentence to penal servitude for life, a fate which persons unhappily competent to judge upon the question invariably describe as infinitely worse than hanging. In the country the police have been unable to avoid the non-discovery of the culprits in four distinct cases of murder, and these culprits have been respectively sentenced to death. These fellows present the type which people generally never desire to meet except under such circumstances of adversity, and yet the type which, desire or not, is to be met with universally in town and country, in active exertion only when blaspheming in the street, getting intoxicated in the gin or beer shop, or savagely assaulting a wife at home. The type is that of the true drink-sodden British ruffian, and is represented in this our day not by individual specimens, but by the thousand. He is as common all the year as the bluebottle in summer, yet no dramatist or novelist dares to touch him. He is too terrible, too frightful even for romance. He has a vocabulary of his own, consisting of a few necessary and one unnecessary noun, and only one adjective, expressive of no quality except his own, which is disgusting. When about to become a father he generally kicks his wife to death, and gets twelve months' imprisonment for manslaughter. When exhilarated, he runs amuck in the street, and kicks the wife of some harmless passenger, whom, upon remonstrance, he knocks down. If he be resisted and knocked down himself, the drunken beast's physical system seizes eagerly upon the slightest excuse for giving up business, his fermenting diseased blood boils into erysipelas upon the slightest scratch or bruise on his skull; and his victorious antagonist endures a trial for manslaughter in turn. What can his name matter, whether it be Smith, Higgins, or Harrison? All other classes of humanity have their individual peculiarities, but the British blackguard presents a persistence in the similarity of its members which is unnatural enough to be awful. Of this class are the three wretched human failures now awaiting physical extinction. One of these went one evening to a cottage where his wife was living, at Urpeth-hill, near Durham, and, in a debasing state of intoxication, flung himself into a chair. There he sat, amusing himself by the constant growling repetition of the disgusting adjective and the objectionable noun. Having thoroughly exhausted the delights, in every variation, of this pursuit, he rose, pulled out a clasp-knife, and stabbed his wife above the knee. A lodger, who was in bed in the cottage, endeavoured to interpose, and received a mortal wound in the breast for his good offices. The murderer was named Milner Lockey in the indictment, and under that name is sentenced to be hanged. Another under the like peril is called Smith. He was drinking by night at a public-house, saw a drunken man quit it, followed him, knocked in his skull with a life-preserver, and robbed him of twelve shillings and his boots and trousers. The murderer's miserable remnant of nerve afterwards failed him so far that, dressed in these articles belonging to his victim, he grew so timid as to fear detection by the police. Haunted to desperation by this groundless terror, he confessed the whole affair, was tried, and found guilty. The jury recommended him to mercy, though upon what ground is hard to discover. Next, one Richardson is charged with murder. A policeman saw him with a double-barrelled gun, and, as his pockets were crammed to bulkiest and he was a stranger, the policeman called to him to stand. He turned and shot the policeman, who lived only long enough to describe and afterwards to identify him. In the prisoner's house was found a double-barrelled gun with one barrel loaded. The charge was drawn, and the wadding was seen to consist of a scrap of the *Times* newspaper. The wadding of the charge with which the constable was shot was proved to consist of a portion of the same paper, and in order to testify to this fact it was considered necessary to place in the witness-box the publisher of the *Times*. The prisoner has since his sentence confessed his guilt.

The fourth case is that of a soldier at Aldershot, who having been punished for some act of insubordination, vowed vengeance in the usual phraseology of the British ruffian against the Sergeant who had reported him. That night, on return from ball-practice, the convict, after having cleaned his rifle (an important point), shot dead not only the Sergeant but a Corporal who was sitting playing backgammon with him. The murderer expressed his regret at having shot the unoffending Corporal. At the trial, prisoner's counsel attempted to set up a plea of accident, but this could not be maintained, and prisoner was sentenced to death. Such cases as these illustrate strongly the natural result of the revolting use to which the English law orders have in modern times learned to debase their tongues. They have reached the utmost extent of revolting language, and consequently, there is no resource by which to display further passion except by revolting deeds. This habitual use of filthy expletives is one of the vilest, commonest crimes of the age. Have we no missionaries, no clergy, no moralist, no philanthropist, who will warn and reform the lower orders of this senseless and debasing practice?

The case of Penny v. Clarke, tried on Saturday last in the Common Pleas, merits a notice in this column. The plaintiff was a young woman in the employment of the defendant as cook. The defendant is a physician at Staines. After plaintiff had been a few weeks in defendant's service some disagreement arose, and plaintiff desired to leave the house. According to her account defendant's wife and sister-in-law tried to restrain her from so doing, and Mrs. Clarke seized her by the hair, forced her head back, and otherwise assaulted her. According to the evidence for the defence the plaintiff seized the sister-in-law by the throat, and tried to strangle her. According to the evidence on both sides there must have occurred between the three combatants of the gentler sex, what Fielding calls a battle-royal. Two men at length appeared on the scene, and the fight was stopped. When Dr. Clarke came home, plaintiff sang hymns in joy at her deliverance, but the doctor gave her in charge of the police, and caused her to be detained in the Union as a dangerous lunatic, upon his own statement. The Judge in summing up directed the jury that, "if they thought that she had been imprisoned as a lunatic without cause they would give such damages as they considered her entitled to, for the degradation she had suffered. If they thought there were grounds for considering her a lunatic, then they would find their verdict for the defendant." The jury found a verdict for plaintiff, but awarded only £10 damages, considering the conduct of Dr. Clarke had not been altogether groundless.

THE ARMSTRONG GUN IN CHINA.—The *Mechanic's Magazine* says, "Very urgent representations have reached the home authorities from the artillery officers of the Chinese expedition relative to the performance of the Armstrong gun during the campaign. It is found that, from the delicate nature of the construction of the fuzes, by far the larger portion of them were destroyed during the transit to China, or by the action of the climate since they have arrived out. In addition to this, a large number of the segment and other shells are found to be destroyed by the galvanic action of the compound metals—lead and iron—of which they are formed; while those that are in an apparently perfect state are found to be very dangerous to our own outlying riflemen, from the fact of the lead separating from the iron, in many cases as soon as the projectile has left the muzzle of the piece. From the same cause the range was found to vary in an extraordinary degree. Another unpleasant feature is noticed: one of the Armstrong batteries, when charged by the Tartar cavalry, was placed in a most serious dilemma, two of the vent-pieces having been blown out at the first round, rendering the two guns hors de combat and useless to the service, until the skilled mechanics who accompany the Armstrong batteries obtained time and opportunity for fitting new vent-pieces, and repairing the copper bushes. How would this suit European warfare?"

THE SYRIAN RELIEF FUND.—Lord Stanley, M.P., took the chair on Wednesday at a meeting of the general committee of the British Syrian Relief Fund, held at the Calcedonian Hotel, to receive a report from the executive as to the condition and prospects of the refugees. It was announced that her Majesty's Government had made a grant of £5000 in aid of the subscribers, and that the lists presented a total of nearly £25,000. The report showed that 27,000 persons were in the land beyond the largest proportion being women, 1,600 of whom had been relieved in one day at Beyrout. A quantity of material for clothing had also been sent out, and the women and children are employed in making it into garments. Resolutions approving of the report were agreed to.

